FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 DECEMBER 1984

Assassination of PLO's Al-Qawasimi

Member of the PLO Executive Committee Fahd al-Qawasimi, the former mayor of Hebron who was deported by Israel, was assassinated near his home in Amman on 29 December, Amman radio reported. Four persons implicated in the crime were being interrogated by Jordanian authorities, according to INA, although a Jordanian official cited by Radio Monte Carlo said later that there had been no progress in the investigation. In an anonymous telephone call to AFP, the Palestinian Black September organization claimed responsibility for the killing, Damascus radio disclosed.

Upon arriving in Amman from the PDRY, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat declared that the hired assassins were the ones who tried to obstruct the PNC meeting, and he warned the "Damascus rulers who protect and direct them" that they will not be able to weaken the people's will or stop the PLO march, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The assassination was planned in Damascus on orders of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, PLO Deputy Military Commander Khalil al-Wazir asserted in a statement cited by Amman radio. Jordan's King Husayn denounced the killing by a "cowardly hired hand" in condolences to 'Arafat reported by Amman television, while Israel's Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir maintained that the assassination should be a warning to the king about the risks he takes in relating to "terrorist organizations," according to Jerusalem radio. An Egyptian Government source cited by Cairo radio said Egypt was extremely sad at the news of the assassination and condemns "this brutal terrorist act." The DFLP and the PFLP, in statements reported by Radio Monte Carlo and KUNA respectively, denounced the crime and charged that it deepens the Palestinian fragmentation.

The murder has shocked the West Bank, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that although some blame Israel, the general view is that the Syrians or their hired mercenaries are the culprits. Palestinian West Bank leaders and some Knesset members as well as Minister 'Ezer Weizman called for the Israeli Government to allow Al-Qawasimi's burial to take place in Hebron. Jerusalem television announced that the Al-Qawasimi family and other dignitaries from the territories have permission to travel to Amman for the funeral on 31 December.

Lebanon

The obstacles to the security plan for the coastal road have been "eliminated" and the government hopes it will be implemented "soon," Prime Minister Rashid Karami stated in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio after being briefed by President Amin al-Jumayyil on the latter's recent visit to Damascus. In a report on Al-Jumayyil's talks with President al-Asad, Damascus radio noted that "special attention" was devoted to the Lebanese security situation and the implementation of the security plan for the coastal highway. Meanwhile, a Progressive Socialist Party official cited by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio held the government responsible for recent car-bomb attacks on Druze targets.

Regarding the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations at Al-Naqurah, Lebanese Government sources cited by the Voice of Lebanon disclosed that Presidents al-Jumayyil and Al-Asad have worked out "new proposals" which will be presented by the Lebanese side when the talks resume on 7 January. For Israel's part, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres stated in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio that "a little bit of diplomatic movement" over the weekend has "enhanced the chances of the negotiations." As for Israel's policy in the event of the failure of the talks, the radio pointed out that differences between Labor and Likud ministers are preventing an unequivocal plan for a unilateral withdrawal. Noting that Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is currently studying various options submitted by the IDF, the radio predicted that Rabin will favor a withdrawal to the Al-Litani River pending further developments that justify another movement.

Meanwhile, two Israeli soldiers were injured in a 30 December ambush in southern Lebanon, according to an announcement by the IDF spokesman cited by ITIM. The IDF subsequently captured an eight-man "terrorist" squad north of Sidon, Jerusalem radio reported.

OPEC

At the conclusion of their meeting in Geneva the OPEC ministers announced agreement, with the exception of Algeria and Nigeria, on a temporary adjustment of the pricing system to be valid through January, AFP reported. Previously, the ministers decided to form two committees to oversee members' prices and production, according to the conference chairman's statement cited by INA: an executive committee to set up the monitoring system and receive its final reports, and an investigative monitoring committee.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi aircraft shot down two Iranian F-4's in a dogfight over the Maysan sector on 29 December, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement reported by INA. The Iranian jets were attempting to intercept Iraqi planes which were raiding Iranian positions, he said. An Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio the following day reported further Iraqi air attacks on Iranian troops which had "massed to commit aggression against our borders." For Iran's part, Tehran radio announced that Iraqi air raids in the Bostan area killed 14 people and wounded 90 others.

Earlier, at a Friday sermon reported by IRNA, Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani warned Iraq and its supporters that Iran will attack one of their ships for every ship attacked near Iran's oil terminals in the Gulf. He also reaffirmed

that Iran will close the Strait of Hormuz if its oil exports are halted by the Iraqi attacks.

Libyan-Tunisian Cooperation

Libyan and Tunisian officials, meeting in Tunis within the framework of a bilateral Higher Committee, concluded cooperation agreements on a number of issues, including trade exchange and security, Tripoli radio reported on 30 December.

Sudan

A government spokesman's claim that 600 rebels were killed in a Christmas Day clash on the Bor-Juba road was denied by a spokesman for the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the clandestine SPLA radio reported on 28 December. Instead, the radio asserted, a 25 December ambush on the same road left 117 government troops dead. Another ambush, in the Bentiu area, killed 27 government soldiers, the radio added. Subsequently, a government source announced that government forces killed 83 rebels when they attacked the rebels' Bentiu camp, according to SUNA, while the clandestine SPLA radio declared that rebel forces captured a town in the Upper Nile administrative area, killing 73 government troops.

Afghanistan

As the Soviet occupation entered its 6th year, intensified fighting left 24 Soviet-DRA troops dead in the Qandahar area and 13 dead in Ghowr Province, Karachi radio reported, while Tehran radio noted that 20 Soviet troops were killed in night operations in Kabul.

In a separate development, a DRA spokesman denounced recent remarks by U.S. President Ronald Reagan on continuing and increasing aid to the rebels as proof that armed interference in DRA internal affairs is an integral part of U.S. foreign policy.

Pakistan

According to an unofficial count, six Biharis died during demonstrations to protest alleged remarks by President Ziaul Haq on 27 December that the Biharis, a group partially repatriated from Bangladesh, are Bangladesh's problem and describing them as "beggars," AFP reported.

FBIS

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Reportage on Assassination of PLO's Fahd al-Qawasimi

Assassination in Amman

JN291517 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Fu'ad Na'im dispatch from Amman]

[Text] This afternoon an armed gang fired on Fahd al-Qawasimi, member of the PLO Executive Committee, while he was returning to his home in Amman. Al-Qawasimi was taken to the Palestinian Liberation Army hospital near his home, but he soon died from his wounds.

Al-Qawasimi was mayor of Hebron in the occupied West Bank until he was deported by the Israeli authorities in May 1982. He was elected to the Executive Committee in November and was appointed chairman of the Occupied Homeland Affairs Department.

Black September Claims Assassination

NC292053 Paris AFP in English 2049 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Amman, Dec 29 (AFP) — Fahd al-Qawasimi, a top official of the PLO and supporter of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, was assassinated here today by two gunmen, a spokesman for Jordan's Interior Ministry said.

In Paris, an anonymous telephone caller to the Agence France-Presse said the Palestinian terror organization Black September was responsible for "the death of the Jordan cop Fahd al-Qawasimi, who plotted against the revolution on behalf of 'Arafat and King Husayn" of Jordan.

Mr al-Qawsimi, 45, was shot in the chest as he was about to get out of a car to enter his home in a residential district of Amman. He died in the Palestine Liberation Army hospital, the Jordanian spokesman said.

Witnesses said the killers fled in a car. The two gunmen also wounded a couple in a passing car, the spokesman said.

In the telephone call to Paris, a man who said he was speaking from Rome said Black September would continue to take "revolutionary measures against all participants in the plot against the Palestinian revolution". This was an apparent reference to the Jordanian-PLO rapprochement at the last session of the PNC in Amman in November.

Mr al-Qawasimi was elected to the PLO's Executive Committee, or governing body, as an independent at the Amman meeting.

Black September, best known for the massacre of Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympic Games in 1972, claimed responsibility for the killing December 4 in Bucharest of Azmi al-Mufti, a counsellor at the Jordanian embassy in Romania.

'Arafat Arrives, Consoles Family

JN301337 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Amman — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has visited the home of Martyr al-Qawasimi, PLO Executive Committee member and the Hebron mayor deported by the Zionist occupation forces, to console the Al-Qawasimi family. In a speech 'Arafat asserted that the principles for which the martyr fell will remain an example for the Palestinian revolution regardless of the dangers and challenges it faces.

'Arafat said: The conspiracy aimed against the life of Al-Qawasimi is the same conspiracy that has always faced the independent Palestinian decisionmaking and Palestinian legitimacy to which the revolution cadres and the Palestinian people adhere.

A member of the Al-Qawasimi family expressed the conviction of the martyr's family in the principles in which the martyr believed and for which he fell. He reiterated the pledge to continue with Fahd al-Qawasimi's course and principles in the service of the Palestinian cause.

'Arafat was accompanied by PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih; Deputy Commander in Chief of the Palestinian revolution forces Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad; Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad; a number of Palestine Liberation Army senior officers; and a great number of PNC members.

In a statement on arrival in Amman this morning, Yasir 'Arafat said: With our masses inside and outside our occupied homeland I mourn one of the Palestinian people's heroes and a great figure of our Arab nation. Martyr Fahd al-Qawasimi has been struggling against the Zionist occupation for a long time and taken the path of revolution and struggle since childhood. 'Arafat added: We pledge to our martyr hero as we pledged to all martyrs before him that we will remain faithful to every drop of blood that was shed for the sake our homeland Palestine.

'Arafat described the killers of martyr Al-Qawasimi as traitors and hired killers who attempted to strike at the PLO and obstruct the meetings of the PNC. He said: Let those hired killers and the Damascus rulers, who protect and direct them, know that they will not be able to weaken the people's will and determination or stop the revolution's march.

Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, and Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, members of the Fatah Central Committee, arrived with Yasir 'Arafat to participate in the funeral of martyr Fahd al-Qawasimi who was assassinated by the hands of treachery. Occupied Territories Minister Shawkat Mahmud, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, Fatah Central Committee Member Hani al-Hasan, and a number of Palestinian officials received 'Arafat at Amman's airport.

Yasir 'Arafat, Khalil al-Wazir, and Salah Khalaf received condolences on Fahd al-Qawasimi's martydom yesterday from PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Vice President 'Ali 'Antar, Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, members of the

YSP Political Bureau and Central Committee, the Arab and foreign ambassadors in Aden, the Palestinian community, and the officers and soldiers of the Al-Yarmuk forces.

Al-Wazir Accuses Al-Asad

JN301920 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has stated that the criminal assassination of Martyr al-Qawasimi had been planned in Damascus on the orders of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

In a statement to REUTER, Khalil al-Wazir said that there is a list of Palestinian revolution leaders to be liquidated in order to continue the policy of paralyzing and freezing PLO activities, and to undermine the PLO's victory which was scored with the convening of the PNC in Amman. Al-Wazir added that the hand which carried out this assassination had done so on direct orders from Damascus.

Al-Fahum Linked With Assassination

JN302007 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1638 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The PNC had done a good job when it disposed of Khalid al-Fahum and terminated his role as one of the Palestinian legitimacy's symbols. We would not have spoken about this man in this fashion because he departed our political life when the PNC withdrew their confidence in him. However, we have to pause at an event that attracted our attention. This event was a riddle at the beginning. However, this event became clear at 1430 GMT yesterday, at the time when struggler Fahd al-Qawasimi was assassinated on the steps of his house in Amman.

The event that drew our attention is that Khalid al-Fahum appeared on the Syrian television less than 20 hours before the assassination of the martyr. Despite the fact that Al-Fahum's current job is appearing on Syrian television now and then, the outstanding aspect of his appearance the day before yesterday is that he spoke in detail about Martyr al-Qawasimi and defamed him. This astonished many people, particularly since Fahd is one of the Palestinian figures who had suffered from occupiers a thousand times more than Al-Fahum or the Damascus orchestra.

The people who were stunned by the assassination of Fahd al-Qawasimi have wondered about the relationship between Al-Fahum's attack on Al-Qawasimi on Syrian television and the assassination which came just a few hours after this surprising television attack. However, the people have the answer to this question, because the assassination of a great symbol such as Fahd al-Qawasimi needs a cover and those agents who falsely carry the name of Palestine can provide such a cover.

At any rate, the Palestinian people who read their past and current history know well who the heroes of this history are and who have made this history. Fahd al-Qawasimi is one of those heroes. It is not strange that he fell a martyr in the battlefield, whether by a Zionist hand or any hand that claims a Palestinian or an Arab identity. The army of agents is one, and the enemies have a common objective. Can those who planned for and who perpetrated the crime of assassinating Al-Qawasimi forget that the Zionists have preceded them in attempting his assassination, and that when they did not succeed they had him expelled from the homeland to hand him over to the treacherous murderers? Those who have planned for and gave orders to murder Fahd al-Qawasimi cannot be separated from the Zionist objective that urged the occupation authorities to expel him from Hebron in the wake of the brave operation of (?Dibbiyah). They all receive their orders from the same master.

Are we living in an age of strange coincidences, or in an age of planned, synchronized events? Because we are experienced, we do not believe in strange coincidences. All that we see and experience are planned, synchronized events. Sharon had ordered the Zionist army to expel us from southern Lebanon and Beirut, the Damascus regime ordered his agents and army to expel us from northern Lebanon and Tripoli, Meir Kahane carried out an attempt to assassinate mayors in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the agents have carried out this attempt once again against Fahd al-Qawasimi.

O Palestinians, O Arabs, are these coincidences or planned attempts? We call on all coinsciences to be honest. We are living in an age in which the traitors have carried out many insolent acts and have become the custodians of the temple holding the guillotine to murder honest people in daylight.

However, we are very certain that those who infiltrated the temple will inevitably vanish and that those who hold the guillotine will be murdered in the future. History says that only the correct things will continue to exist. The arms of the honest men will protect the facts of history and deepen their roots in the land of life.

PNC Speaker Condemns Assassination

JN301725 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1613 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has said that Fahd al-Qawasimi is the Arab nation's martyr because he is a son of Palestine and the entire Arab nation. He said that his blood was not spilled uselessly because he had sacrificed his blood for the sake of Palestine and the Arab nation's dignity.

In press statements published in Amman, Shaykh al-Sa'ih added that Martyr Al-Qawasimi was assassinated in Amman by Arab hands. He said that a large number of Al-Qawasimi's family were martyred at the hands of enemies — enemies of their nation and of all the Arabs. He added that the most painful thing for the martyr's family was that he was assassinated by Arab hands, a pain that we do not know how to describe. However, he added, we will leave this to history to speak about them and those who instigated them.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih warned the planners and agents that such vile methods cannot regain a homeland or stop a struggler.

Deputy Speaker Denounces Assassination

JN301734 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1613 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Brother Abu al-Adib [Salim al-Za'nun], Fatah Central Committee member and PNC deputy speaker, has denounced the assassination of PLO Executive Committee member Brother Fahd al-Qawasimi in Amman yesterday.

In a statement made in Kuwait last night, Brother Abu al-Adib described this crime as a criminal act aimed at the PNC, which has produced a strong Executive Committee with Fahd al-Qawasimi as one of its strong elements. Brother Abu al-Adib added that the treacherous hand that planned the assassination of Brother Fahd al-Qawasimi and is planning to assassinate others, announces its political bankruptcy and seeks with rancor to avenge the success of the PNC which was held recently in Amman.

PLO Statement Mourning Al-Qawasimi

JN291707 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] The PLO issued a statement in Amman today mourning Martyr Fahd al-Qawasimi, member of the Executive Committee. The following is text of the statement:

The PLO mournes martyr leader Fahd al-Qawasimi, member of the PLO Executive Committee, head of the Occupied Homeland Affairs Department, and deported Hebron mayor, who was struck by the hand of treachery and treason at approximately 1430 today in Amman.

The martyr leader was one of the symbols and pillars of Palestinian national struggle. He played an effective role in leading national action in the occupied territory which made the Zionist leadership deport him in 1980, following several attempts by Zionist authorities to assassinate him in the heart of the city of Hebron.

Martyr leader Fahd al-Qawasimi was considered a brave struggler on a worldwide basis. Following his deportation from Hebron, he played a brilliant role in the information and political fields which won the respect and support of many sectors of world public opinion for our just cause and national rights.

Those who carried out the crime of assassinating martyr leader Fahd al-Qawasimi, and who will not escape the hand of justice, wanted by their abominable act to achieve what the enemy could not achieve — to strike at the leaders and main cadres of Palestinian struggle as part of the greater plot to liquidate the Palestinian revolution and the Palestine question.

Fahd al-Qawasimi fell as a martyr in the battlefield in defense of Palestinian existence in its most critical phase of struggle, and in defense of the independent Palestinian decisionmaking, the deceased being one of its brave defenders and protectors. Abu Khalid [Fahd al-Qawasimi] has joined the line of righteous martyrs who sacrificed their lives on the path to Palestine. Our great people will continue to carry out their mission and to make sacrifices for the sake of achieving this mission — struggle until victory and liberation. To God we belong, and to Him is our return. [Koranic verse]

Fatah Statement on Assassination

JN301841 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1613 GMT 30 Dec 84

["Text" of 29 December Fatah Central Committee statement on death of Fahd al-Qawasimi, PLO Executive Committee and PNC member]

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee mourns one of Palestine's figures and heroes, Martyr Fahd al-Qawasimi, the PLO Executive Committee member and elected Hebron mayor who was assassinated by the hands of treachery in Amman yesterday. With the martyrdom of hero Fahd al-Qawasimi, Fatah has lost one of the prominent Palestinian leaders who has always been an example of confrontation with the Israeli occupation and the Zionist movement. We say to the hired traitors and the Damascus rulers who protect them and aim to strike at the PLO, the Palestinian people, their leaders, and institutions that the blood of the martyr and all the martyrs will not be wasted. We pledge to our people inside and outside the occupied territories to continue the struggle and the revolutionary march until victory. The blood of our martyr will make us more determined to continue on the path.

The Fatah Central Committee calls on our masses inside and outside the occupied territories to assume this dangerous responsibility in the face of these decisive challenges and the continued conspiracies against our people and its leaders. Let those hired killers and their protectors in Damascus know that this crime will not pass unpunished, that the pure blood will not be wasted, and that our people are capable with their firm will, which succeeded in foiling the big conspiracy, to confront the rest of the conspiracies and conspirators, until our people achieve victory and raise the flag of revolution in Jerusalem and Hebron. Glory to our righteous martyrs. We pledge to our martyr to continue on our path until we achieve the objectives of our people and revolution.

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with God: they have completed their vow to the extreme and some still wait, but they have never changed their determination in the least. [Koranic verse]. It is a revolution unto victory.

[Signed] The Fatah Central Committee, 29 December 1984

PLO Executive Committee Statement

JN301855 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Dec 84

["Text" of 29 December PLO Executive Committee statement on death of Fahd al-Qawasimi, PLO Executive Committee and PNC member]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee announces to our valiant Palestinian people in and outside the occupied territories and to

the masses of our Arab and Islamic nation the death of martyr hero Fahd al-Qawasimi, PLO Executive Committee member and elected Hebron mayor, who was assassinated by treacherous hands in front of his house in Amman at noon today, 29 December 1984.

Martyr hero Fahd al-Qawasimi, who had fought Zionist occupation for a long time and who had joined the march of revolution and struggle in his childhood, will continue to be in all our hearts. We pledge to you as we have pledged to the thousands of martyrs who preceded you on the path of revolution and its triumphant militant march that we will remain faithful to every drop of blood that has been shed to irrigate the soil of Palestine.

The hireling assassins who killed the martyr are the same who had sought to deal a blow to the PLO and hamper the PNC sessions. Let these hireling assassins and the Damascus rulers who protect and manipulate them understand that they cannot harm our people's will and will not succeed in harming their determination and checking the march of the revolution.

Such a heinous crime will only make our people and their hero revolutionaries more determined to pursue the course on the road to the attainment of all our people's national objectives of repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative.

We pledge to our kinfolk in the occupied territories that the blood of hero Fahd al-Qawasimi and all his brother martyrs will not be wasted, and that the Zionist enemy which deported Al-Qawasimi and his brothers from our homeland to have them face the bullets of treason of their agents must understand that these treacherous acts will not halt the march. On the contrary, these acts will make us more determined to pursue the march untii liberation and victory.

We pledge to our hero martyr and to all the martyrs of our Palestinian revolution and our Arab nation that the revolution will continue until the attainment of our people's objectives and until the time when our revolution's flag will flutter in Jerusalem, Hebron, and the other parts of our homeland, Palestine. It is a revolution until victory.

[Signed] The PLO Executive Committee, Aden, 29 December 1984

DFLP Denounces Assassination

JN301239 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] A spokesman of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has stated the following:

Palestinian national circles as well as our masses have received with great regret and denunciation the assassination of brother nationalist struggler Fahd al-Qawasimi in Amman. This criminal act comes at a time when imperialism, Zionism, and the forces allied with them that are hostile to our people are working to exploit the division and the difficult situation of the Palestinians with the aim of striking at the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our people preparatory to liquidating our national cause and inalienable rights, particularly our rights to repatriation, to self-determination, and to an independent state.

This deplorable crime comes at a time when voices are being raised and national efforts are exerted on various Palestinian levels of struggle to bypass differences and restore the fabric of the PLO in accordance with the only sound method — the method of democratic dialogue and of resorting to legitimate Palestinian institutions.

While affirming our denunciation of this crime, we call on all national forces to express strong condemnation of this deed and to stop these destructive methods, which are highly detrimental to our cause and our revolution's reputation and prestige.

AL-QABAS on Assassination Squad

JN310811 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, 31 Dec (INA) — The newspaper *AL-QABAS* cites Palestinian sources as saying that the assassination of Fahd al-Qawasimi was part of a plan drawn up immediately after the PNC conference to assassinate several Palestinian leaders. These sources said that the PLO leadership has been informed that after the assassination of Al-Qawasimi, plans would be made to assassinate ALF Secretary General 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad at an airport abroad. They added that the PLO leadership contacted 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, who is currently visiting China and who will later tour some socialist countries, and told him to be cautious.

The paper adds that the Palestinian leadership has learned that an assassination squad has been formed in an Arab capital and that 16 elements of this squad have set out to hunt Palestinian figures. A group from this squad has arrived in a Gulf state with orders to assassinate three specific Palestinian officials or to assassinate any leading Palestinian figure if they fail in their original mission.

Al-Qawasimi To Be Buried 31 Dec

JN301929 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Funeral services for Martyr Fahd al-Qawasimi, PLO Executive Committee member, will be held in the Jordan University Mosque at noon tomorrow. He will be buried in the family's burial plot in 'Umm al-Hiran.

Further Reportage on OPEC Meeting

'Temporary Agreement' Reached

LD292119 Kuwait KUNA in English 1951 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Geneva, Dec 29 (KUNA) — A temporary agreement has been reached between OPEC ministers under which prices of heavy crude would increase by 50 cents, said UAE Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah. Al-Utaybah told reporters that light crude prices will be cut by 50 cents, while the medium crude will be increased by 25 cents a barrel.

The UAE minister said the ministers agreed to meet early next month to reevaluate the differentials problem.

Al-'Utaybah pointed out that this agrement is only interim "until we find a final solution to the problem of differential between heavy and light crudes."

He, and earlier Yamani, said the marker price of 29 dollars a barrel will not be [word indistinct]. He added that they also agreed to expand the membership of the differentials committee which is headed by Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani by three more members to include Nigeria, Qatar and Algeria. The committee consists of ministers of Libya and the UAE in addition to Saudi Arabia.

The ministers are to resume their meetings at 21:30 GMT, although it is speculated that they will postpone it until tomorrow morning.

Executive, Monitoring Committees Formed

JN290907 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Geneva, 29 Dec (INA) — OPEC oil ministers have decided to form two ministerial committees: an executive committee and a monitoring committee. Dr Subroto, Indonesian mining and energy minister and OPEC conference chairman, told the press late last night that the Executive Committee is headed by Shaykh Zaki Yamani with the UAE, Venezuelan, Nigerian, and Indonesian oil ministers as members. He said that the committee's task is to define the provisions and regulations of the monitoring system and submit them to the OPEC ministerial council for approval.

He added that the Monitoring Committee is headed by Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE petroleum and natural resources minister, with Algeria, Libya, Iran, and Ecuador as members. This committee will investigate and monitor prices and production of members and submit reports to the Executive Committee.

Commenting on this decision, Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi said that membership in the two committees is restricted to OPEC members. Taqi added that the measures approved by all OPEC countries will bolster market stability but will not finally resolve the crisis experienced by the oil market.

The task of the two committees can be explained as follows: The Executive Committee is to be viewed as a higher council and will discuss the final reports submitted to it on the extent of OPEC countries' adherence to production quotas and prices, while the Monitoring Committee will assist the first committee by going through the records of OPEC countries to verify their production rates and prices.

Oil Ministers Welcome Monitoring Committee

LD301453 Kuwait KUNA in English 1341 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Geneva, Dec 30 (KUNA) — OPEC's agreement in Geneva to monitor oil production and prices of each member was "one of the most important decisions in OPEC's history," Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah said Sunday.

The situation in OPEC, following the organization's determined move to enforce quotas and pricing, would gradually improve, Shaykh 'Ali told a group of newsmen in his hotel suite. "The wind I hear is music to my ear."

The failure of the oil ministers to successfully resolve differentials for heavy and light crudes would not have short-term consequences, he said, apparently referring to fears of a price-war and a realignment by North Sea producers of their prices to the spot market. He expected the ministers to agree on a suitable narrowing of the gap between the OPEC oil grades at the extraordinary conference to be held in January. OPEC was forced Saturday to accept an interim accord on the problem, closing the price gap by 75 cents, because it ran out of time, but with two more days of talks it could have reached agreement, he felt.

Algeria and Nigeria have refused to accept the new price range, under which heavy crudes are raised 50 cents and medium by 25, with extra light grades lowered 25 cents.

Algerian oil minister Belkacem Nabi described the holding measures Sunday as negative, and said they reduced the credibility of OPEC. It was "a compromise which compromised OPEC."

Tam David-West, oil minister of OPEC maverick Nigeria, said it was not a bold enough step. Nigeria could not go along with an agreement that would last only a few weeks.

Shaykh 'Ali believed differentials, although important, could wait for a little while. "It is not half as important as the issue of auditing and monitoring, because this lays the foundation for our [word indistinct] decisionmaking in the future." A proper set of differentials could not be drawn up before other issues were dealt with, he said. OPEC had to break through pyschological barriers first, such as accepting that all crudes had to be changed. "You do not tie both hands behind your back and jump into a lake," the Kuwaiti minister said.

The monitoring system, which the five-member ministerial committee charged with drawing up has already begun work on, would in principle cover all aspects of production from crude output to refined products, Shaykh 'Ali said. The pricing controls

would affect crude prices essentially and exclude product and refined product prices. "When figures are audited and shown, we can make decisions not on the basis of rumors or allegations, but on the basis of facts. I take the figures back to my government and we will very seriously look at them," he added.

OPEC is considering a range of measures to enforce its system and restore discipline, from simply publicly exposing members breaking the rules to sanctions of one kind or another. Algeria said it supported sanctions, but Nigeria's minister said they would have a destabilizing effect and OPEC should be very careful about invoking them.

Shaykh 'Ali said that if differentials were agreed at the January meeting, he would expect Nigeria to come into line with other OPEC countries. In October Nigeria cut its official price by two dollars a barrel after cuts by Britain and Norway. The Kuwaiti minister said he had been very pleased by Nigeria's resolve to reach an agreement and its willingness to change its price if it had to.

The Geneva conference in its attempt to find an accord on the official price range, discussed several possible ways, including cutting the present reference price of 29 dollars a barrel by 50 cents. Shaykh 'Ali said there was a tendency "to get hung up" on the general concept of a market, whereas each crude could move in relationship to the others, "including the marker."

The minister denied he had proposed a change in the Saudi light marker crude. "My concern was [word indistinct] the correct relationship between crudes into place. To do it, you have to give certain crudes a premium and certain crudes a discount."

The Algerian minister said that despite the unresolved (?differential) issue, OPEC had admitted for the first time the need for strict production controls on the territory of each country. This was "a giant step." Nigeria described it as "a very major decision."

David-West, insisting there was only "a difference of opinion" in OPEC rather than an outright split, pointed out Nigeria was on the committee overseeing the monitoring system and was also, with Algeria and four other countries, on the enlarged differentials committee. "We are [words indistinct] out behind closed doors and resolve everything. The chances of coming to an acceptable agreement are very good."

Algeria: Change Price Differentials

GF301205 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Dubayy, 30 Dec (WAKH) — Algerian Energy and Petrochemical Industries Minister Nabi Belkacem has called for a tangible change in OPEC's oil price differentials so that each state will be able to market its oil.

In a statement published in today's issue of the Dubayy paper *AL-BAYAN*, the Algerian minister complained that for 1 year now Algeria has been unable to sell its entire quota of oil at the prevailing prices. He said that this is a crucial problem requiring a radical solution. He asserted that Algeria agrees with the UAE on the need to give all types of oil an equal opportunity to compete. He said the problem does not lie in increasing or decreasing prices by 1 cent but lies in adjusting price differentials in a manner that will facilitate the sale of all types of oil.

Nabi Belkacem supported the decision to set up an OPEC monitoring body. He said that no one argued against the need to set up such a body to monitor oil production and prices and the prices of exports of petroleum products and their derivatives. He noted that there is no problem in administering the monitoring body. Lists of the quantities of oil exported and their prices enclosed by bank statements will be presented at Algerian ports, the Algerian minister said. He added that two committees will be carrying out the task: an executive committee that will do the accounting and auditing, and a monitoring committee that will supervise and will follow up developments in the world market as well as developments in OPEC countries, non-OPEC oil-producing countries, and oil-consuming countries. The Executive Committee will look after OPEC affairs. It will meet four times a month and will submit a monthly report to the OPEC ministerial conference, the Algerian energy and petroleum industries minister added.

Gulf Countries Blamed for Discord

LD301220 Algiers APS in English 1143 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Geneva 30 Dec 84 (APS) — By substituting declarations of principle for concrete action OPEC laid it self open to countless dangers and consequences. The Gulf countries maneuvres ruined OPEC historical chance to create conditions to further firm up prices as to check prices fall and strengthen the organisations credibility. Unity cannot be built upon the enrichment of some countries at the expense of others.

The pricing structure adopted yesterday by the 72nd conference at the exception of Algeria and Nigeria far from providing a coherent solution to the unbalances of OPEC oil trade would rather be favourable to breaches and breaking up of ranks.

The conference which wound up yesterday narrowed down qualities of crude produced by the organisation at a time when it has to raise the quotas of heavy crudes which directly compete overvalued light crude.

We should hope that when perils will arise, those who made this mistake will discover anew the virtues of common effort in the best interest of the organization.

OAPEC Official Blames West

GF301728 Doha QNA in Arabic 1207 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Dec (QNA) — OAPEC Secretary General 'Ali 'Utayqah has expressed the belief that the ordeal which OPEC is currently facing has been plotted by the governments of Western countries that wish to share profits from the price of barrels of oil with the oil-exporting countries, as they used to do in the 1960's.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS* today, 'Utayqah said that OPEC now stands face to face with IAEA. He pointed out that the Western countries coordinate among themselves through economic, political, and military alliances, that they aim at making the oil market a buyers' market, and that they have succeeded in doing so to a certain extent. He added that the OPEC countries still have to make IAEA's success in the market limited, emphasizing that OPEC's role has not ended yet and it has a role to play even in the most difficult conditions.

'Ali 'Utayqah said the price now declared by Western countries is $29 per barrel and it seems there is a plan to make the price $20, with the intention to make the remaining $9 a tax, so that fuel prices will not change for the ordinary consumer.

On whether he believes that some OPEC countries themselves are contributing to the destruction of OPEC, 'Utayqah refused to be specific. He said it is not possible to specify who is responsible, for everyone has contributed to OPEC's sufferings, even if it is to different degrees.

'Utayqah rejected the accusations that the Arab OPEC countries are the cause of the problems. However, he foresaw success for OPEC's new monitoring organ.

Iraqi Minister Comments On Decisions

JN301513 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Geneva, 30 Dec (INA) — Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi has said that OPEC's decision on price differentials is not final. He said that it is a step forward and an improvement over the current state of affairs.

In a statement to the INA correspondent before leaving Geneva today, Taqi said that OPEC's decision on price differentials is not sufficient and does not radically solve the problem. He added: However, in view of the complexity of the problem and having studied all the proposals, it was agreed to adopt the recommendation submitted by the ministerial committee on price differentials headed by Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani.

Taqi added that the ministerial committee on price differentials will meet next month to discuss all the ideas that have been put forth to devise a new program that will satisfy all OPEC members. Taqi said that OPEC's ministerial council will meet at the end of next month or early in February to settle the question of price differentials.

On OPEC's decision to form a monitoring body, Taqi said that this body will immediately start monitoring members' oil production. This will lead to a more stable oil market. However, arrangements need to be made for monitoring oil prices of members by this boby and this will take time. That is why the decision on price differentials was considered a temporary one and will be reassessed.

In reply to a question on the issue of monitoring Iraq and whether the war circumstances permit this, Taqi said: Iraq's oil production is known and its export outlets are also known.

Concluding his statement, Taqi said: Iraq welcomes any unanimous decision by OPEC, but in view of the fact that the monitoring issue is a sensitive one and somehow infringes on sovereignty, the OPEC ministers referred the matter to their governments and these governments have shown by their replies a positive sense of responsibility.

BAHRAIN

Monetary Association Issues Report

GF310836 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 31 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] Non-oil exports from Bahrain around the world were worth BD43.9 million in the first quarter of this year — a fall of BD16.4 million on the same period last year. And latest figures released by Bahrain Monetary Agency show imports for the same period cost BD185 million — up more than BD17 million on 1983's first quarter.

The detailed statistics are given in the BMA's [Bahrain Monetary Association] latest quarterly bulletin, which details performance in every sector of Bahrain's finance world.

Europe remains the main source of imports for Bahrain, although Japan remains the major single exporter, sending goods here worth BD35.9 million in the first quarter. It is also Bahrain's biggest buyer abroad with business worth BD11.9 million.

More up to date figures are given on Bahrain's oil import/export market. In the third quarter of this year BD142.9 million worth of crude was imported while oil exports were worth BD256.2 million. Overall, imports were worth BD355.7 million over exports of BD311.9 leaving a trade deficit in the first quarter of BD43.8 million.

BMA figures on the state of the offshore banking units show September assets were at their lowest level since February, standing at BD59.1 million. The commercial banks consolidated balance sheet puts assets at a record BD1831 million — more than BD120 million u, on the second quarter of this year. Assets held by the commercial banks in the private, public and non-resident sector stood at BD1315 million in the third quarter.

Finally, the BMA saw its own assets rise BD8 million to BD351 million in the third quarter.

OMAN

Defense Official Meets PRC Military Delegation

GF301412 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Staff Major General Hasan ibn Ihsan ibn Nasib, under secretary at the Ministry of Defense and assistant to the chief of staff, today met with He Zhengwen, deputy chief of staff at the General Staff Department of the People's Liberation Army, and the delegation accompanying him, in the meeting hall at Al-Murtafa' Camp. During the meeting, they discussed aspects of bilateral cooperation and means of expanding this cooperation between the two friendly countries in the military field.

Attending the meeting were: Major General Nasib ibn Hamad al-Rawahi, commander of the the sultan's Ground Forces; Staff Colonel Muhammad ibn Mubarak al-'Amiri, director of operations at the sultan's Air Force; Colonel Jum'ah ibn Salim al-Khatiri, commander of the training battalion of the sultan's Armed Forces; and Major Muhammad ibn 'Umar al-Zubaydi, from the sultan's Navy.

On the PRC side, the meeting was attended by the accompanying delegation and the PRC ambassador to the Sultanate.

Delegation Concludes Visit

GF310820 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] General He Zhengwen, deputy chief of staff of the PRC's People's Liberation Army, and the accompanying military delegation left the country yesterday. He was seen off by Staff Major General Hasan ibn Ihsan ibn Nasib, Defense Ministry under secretary and assistant to the chief of staff; Staff Colonel Pilot Muhammad ibn Mubarak al-'Amiri, head of air operations in the sultan of Oman's Air Force in addition to other officers of the sultan's Armed Forces and the PRC ambassador accredited to the Sultanate.

During the 5-day visit, the PRC military delegation held a number of meetings with senior officials at the Defense Ministry. These meetings were designed to discuss means of developing bilateral friendly relations and viewing some equipment and positions belonging to the sultan's Armed Forces. The delegation was briefed on the progress of the sultan's Armed Forces. The visiting general and the accompanying delegation expressed satisfaction with the standards reached by the sultan's Armed Forces and the huge achievements made in the various fields.

QATAR

Dailies on Formation of OPEC's Monitoring Organ

GF291012 Doha QNA in Arabic 0755 GMT 29 Dec 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Doha, 29 Dec (QNA) — Editorials in two Qatari newspapers today welcome the agreement which the OPEC ministerial council has reached to form a high council to monitor prices and production. The two papers affirm that the proposed monitoring body is a great step forward in preserving production by eliminating the fear and doubts which have affected relations among the OPEC countries.

The newspaper *AL-RAYAH* says: OPEC has been able to overcome many conspiracies against its march. Through its constant unified stand against the price war which has been launched against it by countries outside the organization, OPEC has been able to succeed, thus rising above many sore points and placing the interests of its members above any other consideration. *AL-RAYAH* describes the agreement to form a high council to monitor production and prices as a step which will put OPEC on a new road, particularly regarding the oil surplus which has glutted the world market.

On its part, the English-language newspaper *GULF TIMES* affirms that OPEC has reestablished itself once and for all as a

major force. By agreeing on an internal pricing and production policy, OPEC has repudiated its critics who speculated that the OPEC conference would end without OPEC members reaching any agreement on this critical issue, the paper says.

SAUDI ARABIA

YAR Deputy Premier Arrives for Visit

LD310945 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0924 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Riyadh, 31 Dec (SPA) — Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Riyadh on a visit to the Kingdom this morning. He was met at the airport by His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, and a number of senior officials.

Contract Signed for PLO Permanent Mission

LD291341 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Dr Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Shaykh, head of the Riyadh Projects and Planning Center has stated the following:

In continuation of the support of his majesty's government for the PLO, by which his majesty's government previously decided to allocate a plot of land in the embassy quarter for the building of the headquarters of a PLO permanent mission in the Kingdom, and in implementation of the order of his majesty to have the headquarters of a PLO permanent mission constructed at the expense of his majesty's government, and, now that the special plans for the headquarters have been completed, His Royah Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh region and chairman of the Higher Executive Committee, signed a contract on 25 December with a Saudi company to carry out this project in addition to work on other governmental buildings. His royal highness also signed another contract to supervise the construction of the headquarters of the organization's mission and those governmental buildings.

In addition, his royal highness signed a contract for controlling the water supply system in the embassy quarter, and another contract to oversee the implementation of the governmental services complex in that quarter.

UAE

President Receives Message From YAR President

GF291310 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1120 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Dec (WAKH) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a written message from YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dealing with bilateral relations and ways to promote and strengthen them in various fields, and to inform Shaykh Zayid of the progress of the work and the steps taken in the historical Ma'rib Dam project which is being built at the expense of Shaykh Zayid.

The letter was delivered by Staff Lieutenent Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, YAR chief of staff, during his meeting with Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan in Abu Dhabi today. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces. The meeting was also attended by Staff Brigadier General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, chief of staff of the UAE Armed Forces, and Muhammad Hatim al-Khawi, the YAR ambassador to the UAE.

YAR Official Ends Visits

GF292000 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1805 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Dec (WAKH) — Staff Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, YAR chief of staff, left Abu Dhabi today following a visit to UAE. He was seen off by Staff Brigadier General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, and UAE general command officers.

Measures To Strengthen OPEC Supported

GF290640 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Geneva, 28 Dec (WAKH) — The UAE has supported any measure that will strengthen OPEC and enable it regain its status and credibility in the world. In an interview carried by WAM and Abu Dhabi Television, UAE Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah said: There is unanimous agreement to form a monitoring organ to halt violations of the OPEC resolutions on prices and production.

Al-'Utaybah was interviewed prior to the opening of the OPEC oil ministers' evening session. He said this session would discuss practical measures to ensure serious and binding adherence to production shares for OPEC countries within a production ceiling not to exceed 16 million barrels per day in order to defend OPEC prices, which are based on the benchmark price of $29 per barrel of standard light Arab oil.

Al-'Utaybah said practical measures will be discussed in detail, noting that the ministers agreed to divide OPEC into four regions: the Gulf countries, African countries, Asian countries, and Latin American countries, and to choose a representative for each region. There are certain issues which should be settled, such as price differentials, which have been challenging the organization for 2 years, he said. Any solution to bridge the gap of price differentials between heavy and light crudes should be commensurate with oil market changes, he added. Al-'Utaybah asked: What is the use of giving a certain quota for a certain country that would be unable to market its oil at the official prices? He was referring to the pressures which are being exerted on the price of light crudes after the rise in the demand on the relatively cheaper heavy crudes.

Al-'Utaybah affirmed that "the oil industry is now at a historical crossroads; thus we call for a solution to the problem. All crudes should be put on an equal footing of competition without giving privileges to certain crudes and without making it difficult for some countries to market their crudes."

Concluding, Al-'Utaybah said if this issue is settled, OPEC would be making a great step forward.

AL-WAHDAH Welcomes OPEC Monitoring Committee

GF290830 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0610 GMT 29 Dec 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Dec (WAM) — The newspaper *AL-WAHDAH* praises the OPEC decision to form a commission to monitor OPEC production. In its editorial today, *AL-WAHDAH* says: This decision is a salvaging step to save OPEC from inevitable collapse because the monitoring organ will primarily watch over the production of each OPEC member and will impose punitive measures against any country which exceeds its production quota. Also, drawing on 800,000 barrels of oil from the annual market will lead to true stability and will enable OPEC to regain its vanguard role in the oil market. Consequently, OPEC will tighten its grip on the world market and stave off the plots by certain industrial countries and multinationals.

Concluding its editorial, *AL-WAHDAH* says that OPEC must now solve the price differentials issue, which "does not constitute a threat to the OPEC ministers now that they have overcome the danger menacing their oil organization."

PDRY

Chairman Condemns Al-Qawasimi's Assasination

GF300745 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, visited the PLO office in Aden yesterday to extend his condolences on the martyrdom of significant Palestinian national struggler Fahd al-Qawasimi, following the iniquitous assassination attempt that was carried out against him in Amman yesterday.

During his conversation with Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and the Palestinian officials at the PLO office in Aden Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed the PDRY's condemnation of the criminal act that was carried out against Fahd al-Qawasimi, the national hero who spent his life confronting the Zionist authorities and whose stances expressed the stances of his people inside the occupied territory.

The chairman affirmed that this treacherous act that was carried out in Amman serves the Zionist enemy and imperialism. He said: There is the friendship based on struggle that joins the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions. We, in the Palestinian revolution lost a national struggler and a significant personality by the martyrdom of struggler Fahd al-Qawasimi. But, he added, this loss to the Palestinian revolution should not effect the struggle march of the Arab Palestinian people.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed confidence that the Palestinian revolution will overcome its difficulties and resume its national struggle, strengthen its unity and solidarity on the basis of the Aden-Algiers agreement, and achieve the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO.

Foreign Minister Receives Omani Message

GF291400 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and foreign minister, has received a written message from his brother Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, on the development of bilateral relations.

Chairman Addresses Annual Armed Forces Meeting

GF301702 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has expressed his deep appreciation for the important results achieved by the commanders of the Armed Forces in the fulfillment of the general training program for 1984. The greatness of the program is represented by the continuation of the combat capability and the development attained by our Armed Forces during the past few years.

In a directive delivered yesterday while attending the conclusion of the annual meeting of the commanders of the Armed Forces, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad congratulated them on the success which has been achieved by the commanders, personnel of the Armed Forces, foremost of whom are the workers of our country, and through the party's leading role.

The brother secretary general affirmed that the success of the annual meeting of commanders of the Armed Forces proves that we are capable of achieving more success in this regard despite the difficulties and obstacles facing us. He said that no one can ignore the developments which our Armed Forces have attained recently. These developments are represented in the combat and political fields, including the unity and coordination which charaterize our Armed Forces, their revolutionary enthusiasm, their alertness, and their constant readiness to defend the homeland and the party's cause.

In his directive speech, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad hailed the level of responsible competitiveness in the meeting and on the issues, stating that such competitiveness expresses the development and the political and military awareness of the party's cadres of the Armed Forces and their adherence to the party's method, their devotion to its policy, and their full readiness to defend its principles. This proves that the comrade leaders correctly evaluated and analyzed activities of the past year. He affirmed that we are still in need of more efforts and capabilities for strengthening our military and economic power, because it repre-

sents an important and indispensible condition which will guarantee the success of the PDRY's peaceful policy in this tense region.

In his speech to the commanders of the Armed Forces, the brother secretary general explained that besides the plots of the class enemy, our country is facing other difficulties. The only way to protect the revolution, the party, and the sovereignty of the homeland is to strengthen our military defense and economic strength. This has been affirmed recently by the YSP Political Bureau, since the developments in neighboring regions confirm that the imperialist and reactionary circles are continuing and strengthening their military power for aggressive purposes. He stressed that this matter can only be confronted by developing our economic, military, and political capabilities, and to follow up all the developments at the enemy's front.

The conclusion of the meeting was attended by brother Abu Bakr Bhadib, member of the YSP Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee; Brigadier General Salih Muslih Qasim, member of the YSP Political Bureau and minister of defense; Colonel 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ilawah, first deputy defense minister and chief of staff; and a number of Armed Forces commanders.

YAR

President Cables 'Arafat on Al-Qawasimi's Death

GF310525 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Dec 84

["Text" of cable from Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution armed forces — no date given]

[Text] Brother Struggler Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, we received with deep sadness the news of the assassination of brother struggling martyr Fahd al-Qawasimi, member of the PLO Executive Committee, who has spent his life serving his homeland and nation, and was subjected to all forms of oppression and torture by the Zionist enemy authorities in the occupied territories. He was forced to depart his homeland and leave his family in order to prevent him from continuing the struggle for liberation. However, his faith was not shaken and he was not weakened until he met his God and sacrificed his life for the sake of homeland and its people.

Accept my deepest condolences and convey to his family our prayers for patience and for the deceased for forgiveness and mercy. "From God we came and to him we return." [Koranic verse]

[Signed] Your Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

Foreign Minister Receives Soviet Ambassador

GF301750 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, received this morning His Excellency Antoliy Ivanovich Filev, Soviet ambassador in Sanaa. During the meeting, they exchanged the endorsed documents of the friendship and cooperation treaty which was signed between the YAR and the USSR on 9 October.

'Ali Interviewed on U.S. Role in Mideast

NC282217 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA) — Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stressed that Egypt's policy is firm and that its relations with the big powers will not change.

In an interview with *AKHBAR AL-YAWM* to be published tomorrow on the occasion of the new year, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that Egypt's relations with the Soviet Union are normal and our relationship with the United States is one of strong friendship. Our acceptance of the idea of holding an international conference to solve [the Middle East] issue does not mean that we have ruled out a U.S. role in solving the problem.

The prime minister said that even though the United States has so far not succeeded in solving the Middle East problem, Egypt hopes the U.S. Administration will have a sound and successful plan in the new year in order to reach a solution. We will accept the call to hold an international conference if the U.S. attempts do not yield a result.

On Egyptian-Arab relations, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the argument that decisions by the Arab League should be adopted unanimously cannot be a justification for the continuation of the Arab estrangement with Egypt. Those who use the principle of unanimity as an excuse should know that, basically, there was no unanimity at the Baghdad summit which decided on the severance of relations with Egypt.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali then spoke about some Arab states that attack Egypt on their radios and in their information media. He said that Egypt will not tolerate these Arab governments which adopt an obstinate stand against Egypt but it will not stoop to this low level. He said that at a time when Syria holds the cards on the issue in Lebanon, it is not in a hurry to resolve the Golan issue.

On the Egyptian-Israeli relations, the prime minister said that there are positive aspects which can be built upon in the area, but that good intentions are a condition for improving our relations with Israel. If Israel were to implement its program for the establishment of new settlements, this would constitute a trend contrary to good intentions.

On the stationing of a multinational force in Tabah, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that that would not constitute a violation of Egyptian sovereignty, but it would restrict the possibility of Israel imposing its fait accompli policy.

The prime minister then dealt with the Iraq-Iran war. He emphasized that Egypt supports Iraq which aspires to a peaceful settlement and an end to the war. He added that Egypt at the same time calls on the Iranian side to halt this war which constitutes a loss to everybody.

'Abd al-Majid Interviewed on Mideast Issues

NC291504 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Beirut, 29 Dec (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid stressed that the understanding and coordination between Egypt and Jordan or between Jordan and the Palestinians are not taking the shape of a political axis. This understanding, he said, is for the benefit of the Arab cause and is founded on the belief that the Palestinian problem is the crux of the Middle East issue and that the Palestinian people are entitled to self-determination under the leadership of the PLO.

This came in an interview granted to the *AL-NAHAR AL'ARABI WA AL-DAWLI*, a Lebanese weekly magazine that will publish it on 31 December.

The foreign minister added that one of the premises of such understanding is that withdrawal from Arab territories should take place according to the "land for peace" principle.

The foreign minister also noted that the Jordanian-Palestinian understanding [tafahum], long advocated by Egypt, is going to take place and that a step has been made in the right direction.

Speaking about Egyptian-Israeli relations, 'Abd al-Majid pointed out that Egypt's conditions for the return of its ambassador to Israel are still the same; namely, that Israel should withdraw completely from Lebanon — a genuine withdrawal and not just the illusion of one. The foreign minister also ruled out the possibility of an imminent meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

'Abd al-Majid commented on the international conference to solve the Middle East problem by saying that Egypt is in favor of holding such a conference, but he ruled out the chances for its convocation under the present circumstances. What we can do, he said, is continue contacts to unite the Arab position and achieve complete Arab understanding.

The foreign minister warned against rejecting UN Security Council Resolution 242, saying that the resolution includes a prominent clause ruling against seizing other countries' land by force. The idea of "land for peace" emerged from this resolution, he said, adding that if the resolution has a pitfall in its reference to the Palestinians as refugees, this should not lead to denouncing its first part which rules against the seizure of land by force.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid pointed out that Egypt supports holding an Arab summit if such a summit serves the Arab cause. But, he added, this is not clear so far.

The foreign minister responded to a question by saying that Egypt welcomes any visit by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and that Egyptian officials will be glad to see him any time, but there are no plans for such a visit for the time being. About the recent ICO conference in Sanaa, 'Abd al-Majid said that Syria, Libya, and Iran tried to embarass Egypt and question the Casablanca ICO resolution restoring Egypt's membership to the organization. They wanted the occasion to turn into a demonstration against Egypt, but it turned into a demonstration for Egypt, with 24 Arab, African, and Islamic countries supporting it.

Many delegations supported Egypt on many issues, the foreign minister noted, adding that Egypt has a leading role in the Islamic world.

Commenting on the Lebanese situation, the foreign minister said that Egypt is sharing with the Lebanese Government and people their feelings about the deplorable situation there and is earnestly contacting all the concerned parties to achieve an Israeli withdrawal and to restore Lebanon's sovereignty over its territories. Lebanese officials, he said, are aware of that because Egypt informs them of its moves. He expressed hope that the Al-Naqurah talks will lead to a solution restoring Lebanese sovereignty completely in the south.

Speaking about the Gulf war, 'Abd al-Majid explained that Egypt is not trying to reactivate its initiative to stop the Iraq-Iran war, because the Iranians are determined to continue the war.

Interviewed by Kuwaiti Paper

NC301206 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Dec (MENA) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has called on the Arab countries to close their ranks, settle their differences, and unify their stand under the current serious circumstances. In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-RA'Y AL-A'MM* published today, 'Abd al-Majid expressed his optimism about Egypt's return to the Arab League and stressed that this will take place in the near future.

Asked about the insistence of several Arab countries that Egypt's return should be decided by a summit resolution in line with the resolution to boycott Egypt, 'Abd al-Majid said that the convening of an Arab summit is threatened by a veto from certain Arab countries, which declare that they are against Egypt's return to the Arab League unless it relinquishes the Camp David accords. He said that if this veto can obstruct the convening of the summit, the Arab countries that want to restore relations with Egypt must be given the freedom to do so without its freedom being restricted by a veto from any party.

'Abd al-Majid affirmed that the abrogation of the Camp David accords is out of the question. He said that Egypt has commitments to restore the land [as received] and it focuses on its adherence to the Palestinian cause, and it advocates the Palestinian people's rights. He pointed out that the Camp David accords are no more than an Egyptian attempt to stimulate the Palestinian issue from the deadlock it has reached. He further said that Egypt has its own interpretation of the Camp David accords and does not accept the Israeli interpretation.

'Abd al-Majid described UN Security Council Resolution 242 as a very principal factor because it emphasizes the inadmissibility of the acquisition of land by force. He said that we cannot cancel a resolution that constitutes the basis in the principle of peace for land. He pointed out that the shortcoming of Resolution 242, issued in 1967, is that the problem at that time in terms of the United Nations was one of refugees, whereas today the problem has developed and imposed itself on the United Nations as a problem of a whole people.

'Abd al-Majid praised the position adopted by King Husayn of Jordan and described him as a rational and wise man who founds all his overtures on the basis of land for peace.

Speaking about the Iran-Iraq war, 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt desires an end to this war because its continuation exhausts the resources and power of two Islamic countries. However, Egypt is interested in strengthening Iraq's defenses in the face of the Iranian trend under religious slogans. He asserted that by supporting Iraq, Egypt is not only supporting Iraq's entity and unity but the entire Arab front and security. Referring to Iraq's favorable response to stop this war and Iran's rejection of the peace appeals, 'Abd al-Majid called for strengthening the ICO and backing the efforts to stop the Iran-Iraq war.

Foreign Minister Receives GDR Ambassador 29 Dec

NC291543 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid today met the GDR ambassador to Cairo. During the meeting, the foreign minister expressed his delight over the coming visit to Egypt by GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer — a visit which is scheduled to begin on 23 January. The foreign minister also expressed his satisfaction over the steady progress of Egyptian-GDR relations.

The two officials discussed the situation in the Middle East and Lebanon. 'Abd al-Majid stressed that the Palestinian people should have their legitimate rights restored and that the PLO should take part in any coming negotiations.

The GDR ambassador mentioned that his country has sent a message to Yasir 'Arafat congratulating him for his reelection to the PLO chairmanship.

Reaction to Assassination of PLO's Al-Qawasimi

Foreign Ministry on Assassination

NC301308 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] An official Foreign Ministry source has stated that Egypt was extremely sad to hear of the assassination of a valiant Palestinian struggler, the late Fahd al-Qawasimi, PLO Executive Committee member and one of the pillars of the Palestinian struggle, who bravely and boldly confronted all attempts to silence the Palestinian voice calling for rights, justice and peace.

The source said that while Egypt condemns this brutal terrorist act, it is confident that the masses of the struggling Palestinian people will forge ahead strongly in defense of independent Palestinian decisionmaking asserting their free will and taking inspiration from the spirit of sacrifice that characterizes the Palestinian heroes' struggle.

Ghali Terms Killing 'Heinous'

NC301355 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has declared that the assassination of Fahd al-Qawasimi was a heinous and criminal act against a man

whose record is replete with national action and sacrifice for the victory of his people and Palestinian national rights.

Ghali added that the march toward peace will continue, despite the position of a small minority that has resorted to murder and violence and that has dealt blows to the dearest and noblest representatives of the Palestinian national forces.

Dailies Comment on Assassination

NC300638 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA) — In the commentaries in Monday's edition, the Cairo papers denounce the assassination of Fahd al-Qawasimi, former mayor of Hebron and PLO Executive Committee member. The papers agree that the killers were not pursuing the interests of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause.

AL-AHRAM says: If it is true that the Black September organization is responsible for the assassination of Al-Qawasimi, as it claimed, this means that the man was assassinated by his own countrymen while he was busily fighting his enemies, that he was stabbed in the back while confronting the Israeli campaigns of coercion directed by Tel Aviv.

The paper adds: Regrettably, some Palestinians have done what Israel did not dare to do to a Palestinian leader. The Israeli oppressive institutions punished Al-Qawasimah for his patriotism by dismissing him from his post and expelling him from his land, but the Black September organization saw fit to punish him for his patriotism by issuing a death verdict against him, executing this verdict without trial without permitting him to defend himself, and without taking any ties of kinship into consideration.

AL-AHRAM asks: What do these terrorist organizations, which belong to the Arab nation and which are considered part of the Palestinian people, actually seek? Do they want to liquidate the Palestinian issue and to secure for Israel, through their terrorist acts, the very thing it has failed to achieve with its armies, its war supplies, and its many legions?

Under the title "Al-Qawasimi and the Mercenary Killer," *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says: The person or persons who shot Al-Qawasimah are nothing more than mercenary killers, who care about nothing but the price of their crime, to be paid by those who concocted the assassination plot and assigned them to carry it out.

The paper refers to the Jordanian security department's accusation that Abu Nidal's group and Syria planned the assassination. It expresses regret that an Arab authority or an Arab regime would resort to physical liquidation as a method of resolving differences with others, not only because it is barbaric, but because those who would resort to such a method cannot engage in dialogue and lack the necessary clear evidence to prove that their views and stands are sound.

In conclusion, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* expresses its sorrow that Al-Qawasimi was killed by Arab hands, after the Israeli authorities tried to kill him and expelled him from the city of Hebron on the occupied West Bank because of his faith in his people's cause, which he did not abandon, despite the Israeli terrorism and oppression.

Under the headline "An Attempt To Assassinate the Palestinian Decision," *AL-AKHBAR* says that the assassination of Fahd al-Qawasimi clearly indicates that certain Arab regimes, which did their very best to obstruct the convocation of the PNC, have decided to resort to terrorism and assassination to intimidate the Palestinians. The bullets were aimed not at Al-Qawasimi's chest, but at the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking. The paper points out that though these regimes sing the praises of the Palestinian cause, harping on its defense and the devotion of all efforts to its attainment, in truth they view it as a marginal and secondary issue.

The paper expresses surprise that Palestinian hands fired the treacherous bullets that killed another Palestinian, one who never ceased his struggle in the occupied lands when he was the mayor of Hebron, a post he held until 1981. Indeed, it was his struggle that prompted the Israeli authorities to remove him.

Continuing its editorial, *AL-AKHBAR* expresses condolences to the Palestinian people at the loss of one of their leaders, and expresses the hope that the Palestinian march will continue until their goals — self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian homeland — are secured.

Oil Minister Discusses OPEC Conference Decisions

NC292000 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA) — 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has affirmed that the decisions adopted at the OPEC meeting are not decisive and will not affect the current slide in the price of crude oil in world markets.

In a statement he made upon his return to Cairo this evening from Geneva, the petroleum minister said that although the OPEC oil ministers have agreed to form a ministerial committee to monitor the production quotas and price levels in the member states, there is disagreement among the members about prices differences. There is an inclination to reduce the price of certain types of crude oil, particularly the light crude. Some other states are asking to increase their production for certain considerations of their own.

Regarding the OPEC decisions' effect on the Egyptian oil situation, Qandil said that the decision to form a ministerial committee to monitor oil production and prices will apply to the OPEC member states and does not obligate the nonmembers, including Egypt. He added that Egypt will be affected by any changes in the price of oil in world markets because it is an oil producing and exporting country.

Qandil left for Geneva last Wednesday to attend the meetings of the OPEC oil ministers, which began there on Thursday.

Planning Minister Returns From SFRY Visit

NC292117 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec [MENA] — Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, minister of planning and international cooperation, returned to Cairo this evening from Belgrade following a 6-day visit to Yugoslavia. During this visit, Dr al-Janzuri signed an agreement for economic and technical cooperation between Egypt and Yugoslavia.

The planning minister said that this agreement pertains to the volume of trade between the two countries for 1985, the projects to be implemented, and the methods of financing by the Yugoslav companies that wish to participate in the investment projects in Egypt.

Socialist Labor Party Elects Party Bureau

NC292139 Cairo MENA in English 1822 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, Dec, 29 (MENA) — The Executive Committee of the opposition Socialist Labour Party today elected an eight-member party bureau.

The Executive Committee had met under party leader Ibrahim Shukri.

The Executive Committee had been elected by the third party congress last week. Its members were increased from twenty to thirty.

Paper Criticizes Israel's Settlement Policy

NC290616 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA) — *AL-JUMHURIYAH* stresses that the establishment of settlements in occupied Palestinian territories has been and continues to be an expansionist and firm Israeli strategy on which there is no going back. It seems that the future governments of Israeli will not easily go back on this policy because it is part of the old Zionist dream of settling in all Palestine.

The paper was commenting on the decision of the Zionist Gush Emunim movement to build seven new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with or without the Israeli Government's approval. The paper says that these settlements are only part of the unofficial settlements being set up through donations. In addition, the coalition government of generals, led by Shim'on Peres, previously decided to build a number of settlements in Palestinian areas.

In its Saturday editorial, the paper says that it is strange for Israel to set up settlements on Palestinian territories with uninterrupted U.S. financial support and then to have statements by Tel Aviv and Washington calling for confronting so-called Palestinian terrorism. The paper stresses that Israeli terrorism is the basis and source of any terrorism the region is witnessing or has witnessed since 1948 till now. The continuous Israeli settlement policy confirms time after time that Israel is sowing terrorism and has to expect nothing other than similar terrorism.

The paper concludes its editorial by saying: If the Israeli Government is serious in its calls for peace, it would have declared at the start of the new year its final abandonment of the expansionist settlement policy and stressed its good intentions by returning Tabah to Egypt and by declaring its unconditional and unrestricted withdrawal from south Lebanon.

Further Reportage on Armed Forces Activities

Helicopters Raid Central Sector

JN281728 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Communique No 1,694 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 28 December 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With great steadfastness and high ability, our brave Armed Forces are continuing their operations at the front against the suspect Iranian enemy forces, affirming their extreme readiness to crush any rash adventure that the Iranian regime of charlatanism in Iran may resort to. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our helicopters carried out successful, bold raids on enemy positions and troop concentrations in the central sector inflicting a number of casualties. Three machine gun emplacements were destroyed and columns of smoke were seen rising from them. All our helicopters returned safely and successfully to base, praise be to God.

2. In order to crush the remnants of the collapsing enemy forces, our artillery units pounded selected enemy targets in the east of Basra sector, scoring effective hits. Six enemy soldiers were killed, others were wounded, and one iron tower [burj hadidi] and four infantry positions were destroyed. Those manning these positions were killed. The enemy was seen in a state of panic trying to evacuate its casualties.

3. A group of our hero fighters pounded enemy positions and weapon emplacements in the Maysan sector and destroyed one antitank gun and one infantry position.

4. Using artillery and mortars, our units carried out effective attacks on enemy positions and on one of its patrols as it approached one of our forward units in the central sector. The enemy suffered losses in men and equipment and one of its infantry positions was destroyed.

5. The criminal enemy shelled Basra suburbs with heavy artillery.

6. Escaping the tyranny of the Iranian ruling clique, new groups of Iranian civilians sought refuge with our units in the northern sector. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 December 1984

Two Iranian F-4's Downed

JN291258 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Dec (INA) — Iraqi fighters shot down two Iranian F-4 planes in a dogfight over the Maysan sector this morning. This was announced by a military spokesman a short while ago who added that the Iraqi fighters were raiding Iranian positions in the Maysan sector. Iran sent its planes to intercept the Iraqi aircraft.

The spokesman added that the dogfight took place this morning and that the Iraqi fighter aircraft shot down the two Iranian planes at 1145 [0845 GMT].

The spokesman stressed that supremacy in the air and elsewhere belongs to Iraq alone and that the Iranian rulers will only taste the bitterness of defeat and humiliation.

Air Force Continues Raids

JN291746 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Communique No 1,695 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 December 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The armies of freedom and right continued their legitimate confrontation of falsehood and its owners, thereby affirming to the whole world that continuous, painful blows are the just punishment for those who reject the call of peace and insist on aggression without being deterred by morals or conscience. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Since this morning, our Air Force planes continued to mete out the necessary punishment on the remnants of the Khomeynite regime and to destroy their equipment. Inspired by its backward mentality, the Iranian regime thought that it still had an Air Force. So it sent two F-4 planes from what is left of its diminishing Air Force to try to intercept our brave eagles. Naturally, our eagles shot them down easily and continued to deal devastating strikes to the remnants of aggression. After carrying out 149 combat missions, our eagles returned with their planes victorious, praise be God.

2. Our brave helicopters raided an enemy ambush in the Maysan operational sector which consisted of two boats and a group men. Our helicopters managed through successive blows to destroy the two boats, killing or wounding those in them and also destroying one medium machine gun. In another area in the same sector, our heroic fighters carried out a daring combat operation during which they destroyed two other enemy boats and killed or wounded 30 of the enemy.

3. Our forward units attacked enemy positions and equipment with artillery and other weapons in the central operational sector, inflicting losses in lives and equipment. They killed 10 of the enemy and wounded several others and also completely destroyed two vehicles and a trailer.

4. One escavator was hit in the northern operational sector.

5. The mean enemy shelled with artillery several civilian areas in the outskirts of Basra.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 December 1984

Officer Vows 'Disaster' for Iran

JN301203 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA) — A high-ranking Iraqi military commander has asserted that Iraq will confront any new Iranian aggression with fierce combat and foil all the Iranian rulers' plots, inflicting on them a veritable military disaster. In an analytical study published in *AL-THAWRAH* today, Staff Major General Hamid Ahmad al-Warid said that the Iranian regime is still looking for a new opportunity to transform its military defeat into a victory or a decisive action relying on the principle of the military option. [sentence as received]

Reviewing the factors governing the conflict between the two countries, the officer said that the Iranian regime is facing a firm Iraqi ideology represented by the Iraqis' belief in the just cause for which they are fighting. He said that bitter defeats of the Iranian forces are an additional factor contributing to Iraqi capability. He also said that continuation of the war has made the Iraqi field command more experienced and outstandingly mature — which also enhances the Iraqi forces' ability. The commander added that the Iranian regime's tactic of pushing certain effective army formations into the Iraqi trap has made the similar Iraqi formations far superior to the Iranian ones.

The Iraqi officer pointed out that the Iranian regime has begun to realize the looming disaster about to befall it, and has sensed the flames of total destruction, particularly following the great popular pressure manifested by the armed operations of the Iranian opposition against the Khomeyniite institutions and those cooperating with them, and in view of the aggravating Iranian social and economic problems, as well as the pressures being put on Iran in the region. The officer added this regime does not even have enough courage to change its military option or to revise its policies, because it believes that stopping the war or ending it by diplomatic means will lead to the dissipation of its dreams.

The officer noted that the international community is left with only one option to stop Iranian aggression; namely, to find the vital means to end the war and avert the damage that will result from any reckless Iranian offensive against Iraq. He pointed out that this time destruction will not only befall the Iranian military machine but will also cut off a number of the economic outlets that are of immense importance in sustaining the life of a number of countries, particularly Western Europe and Japan.

162 Missions Launched 30 Dec

JN301812 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Communique No 1,696 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 30 December 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Iraq, which had hoped that the Iranian rulers would desist from sin and seditions and avoid the devil's perilous course, and instead devote themselves to solving the many problems Iran is experiencing, will have no other alternative but to mete out severe punishment on this clique if it insists on its evil course. Let those ignoramuses realize that Iraq's call for peace stems from a position of strength and capability and from a deep sense of responsibility toward lofty values. By daily intensifying their blows to the Khomeyniite regime, which is wallowing in its sins, the people's Armed Forces are carrying out their duty of keeping their pledge, foiling treason, championing justice, and warding harm off the homeland of freedom and good. The results of the activities for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. The valiant Iraqi hawks continue to deal lightning blows to the evil heads, destroying the enemy's equipment and military hardware in the Maysan sector, begriming all the forces that Khomeyni had massed to commit aggression against our borders, and decisively settling the victory in advance in favor of lofty Iraq in any adventure the regime of ignoramuses in Iran may launch. Our fighter aircraft carried out 162 combat missions today. All our valiant hawks returned safely and triumphantly to base, praise be to God.

2. One of our helicopter gunship formations carried out a daring and successful raid against two enemy steamers discovered in the Maysan operational sector. The two steamers were carrying enemy personnel. The valiant knights of the helicopter gunships destroyed the 2 steamers, killed 10 enemy elements, and destroyed 1 enemy observation post. Columns of smoke were seen billowing from the area. Our valiant knights and their helicopters returned safely and triumphantly, praise be to God.

3. In order to inflict the heaviest losses on the enemy, our artillery units shelled enemy positions, troop concentrations, and mortar positions in the oeprational sector east of Basra, scoring accurate and effective hits, killing two, wounding others, and destroying one infantry position. The enemy was seen evacuating its losses.

4. One of our forward units pounded enemy positions, troop concentrations, and artillery positions in the northern sector of the battlefield with all types of weapons, killing or wounding many, and destroying one infantry position, one observation post, and one excavator.

5. Dealing effective blows, the valiant artillery men opened fire on enemy troop concentrations and artillery positions in the central sector of the battlefield, inflicting on the enemy heavy losses in life and equipment. In another area of the same sector, one of our patrols approached enemy positions, opened fire on them, and inflicted on the enemy losses in life and equipment. All the memebrs of the patrol returned safely to base.

6. The criminal enemy shelled several civilian areas in the Basra suburbs this morning. As a result of the enemy shelling, one woman was martyred and one civilian was wounded.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 December 1984

Saddam Husayn Receives Saudi Defense Official

JN291252 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Dec (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received Prince 'Abd al-Fahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi deputy

defense and aviation minister, today. The president's secretary attended the meeting.

INA: Japanese Companies Stop Importing Iranian Oil

JN281450 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1312 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] London, 28 Dec (INA) — Well-informed sources at Lloyd's Insurance Company said today that Japanese companies have decided to stop importing Iranian crude oil due to the escalation of Iraq's successful air raids against the tankers and ships sailing to and from Khark island.

The same sources added today that increasing the insurance against war risks for tankers and ships heading for Khark Island has forced most of the Japanese companies to avoid transporting Iranian crude oil from this island. This is due to the huge expenses these companies have to incur, rendering importing Iranian oil uneconomical.

The sources confirmed that the insurance against war risks on tankers and ships heading for Khark island was increased by 30 percent today. This insurance was only 3 percent prior to the Iraqi air raids last week against tankers and ships in the military zone defined by Iraq around Khark Island in previous communiques. Insurance rates for oil and goods carried by tankers and ships heading for Khark Island have increased by 5 percent after they were only 0.75 percent in the last week.

Ramadan Receives Message From France's Fabius

JN301703 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received the French charge d'affaires in Baghdad at noon today. During the meeting, the first deputy prime minister received a letter from French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius on bilateral relations and ways of promoting them.

Oil Minister Returns From Geneva Conference

JN310736 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA) — Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi returned here last night after participating in OPEC's 72d ministerial conference, concluded in Geneva the day before yesterday.

Reportage on Assassination of Fahd al-Qawasimi

Official Statement on Assassination

JN291632 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1612 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Amman — An official spokesman at the Interior Ministry has stated the following:

At approximately 1430 today, Saturday, 29 December, two men with pistols equipped with silencers opened fire on Fahd al-Qawasimi, the Hebron mayor who was deported by the Israeli occupation authorities and a member of the PLO Executive Committee. Al-Qawasimi was shot in the chest near his home on Acre Street, Jabal al-Husayn. Al-Qawasimi was taken to the nearby Palestinian Liberation Army hospital where he died on arrival.

An employee of the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY and his wife, who were passing in their car near the scene of the incident, were also hit. They were admitted to the hospital; the employee left the hospital after receiving first aid treatment, but his wife remained for further treatment. Her injuries are not serious.

The public security forces immediately rushed to the scene of the incident and took the necessary measures to apprehend the criminals.

King Visits Al-Qawasimi Family

JN291821 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today visited the home of martyr Fahd al-Qawasimi, accompanied by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat; the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir; and PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih. His majesty expressed in the name of the Jordanian family his condolences on the death of martyr Al-Qawasimi and denounced and condemned this cowardly treacherous act which was carried out by hired agents.

His majesty affirmed that such cowardly, treacherous acts are aimed at undermining the Palestinian people's national rights and just cause and conflict with the teachings of our tolerant religion.

Husayn Cables 'Arafat

JN291924 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1824 GMT 29 Dec 84

["Text" of King Husayn's cable of condolences to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on the death of Fahd al-Qawasimi 29 December]

[Text] With great sadness and deep pain I received this afternoon the report on the martyrdom of the late Fahd al-Qawasimi, member of the PLO Executive Committee, by a cowardly hired hand while he was entering his home in Amman with the reassurance of one who had confidence in his record, was satisfied with his conscience, and sought his God's gratification.

He was a brave struggler who lived in Palestine, worked for its sake, and struggled for its cause. Thus, he deserved the confidence of his own townspeople when they elected him as chairman of the highest local council so he would continue to serve his town and people under Zionist occupation. He bravely confronted the occupation authorities' expansionist and oppressive policy. Those authorities could not tolerate his presence, so they uprooted him from the land that he loved and adhered to. They uprooted him from Hebron, the birthplace of great heroes who fought Zionism as they fought imperialism.

Fahd established himself in Amman where he defended his people and their rights and fought for his country with all the means in his power. He toured the world explaining his people's cause, arguing with the enemies, and winning friends. Thus, he deserved to be the representative of the Palestinian people in the PNC, just as he deserved before that to represent his townspeople as the mayor of Hebron.

The assassination of the late Fahd al-Qawasimi was a continuation of the enemy's action when it removed him from the field of struggle in his birthplace. Therefore, those who planned and carried out this criminal act could only have been agents who placed themselves at the disposal of the enemy and its objectives. They cannot be anything but cowards, because the coward alone imagines that crime is his method to achieve his mean objectives. Terrorism has never silenced a voice that calls for justice or stopped a struggler who devoted his life to a sacred cause, whose substance is Jerusalem and Palestine. Darkness can only be dispelled by bright light, and the voice of falsehood can only drowned by the resounding voice of justice.

May God rest the deceased's soul in peace and make paradise his abode among the martyrs, righteous, and upright. Let martyr Fahd be the torch of courage and respect for all strugglers everywhere in this world.

[Signed] Your loyal Brother Husayn ibn al-Talal

Four Suspects Interrogated

JN301156 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1109 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Amman, 30 Dec (INA) — The Jordanian authorities have arrested four persons suspected of direct involvement in the assassination of PLO Executive Committee member Fahd al-Qawasimi yesterday. A well-informed Palestinian source told the INA correspondent in Amman today that those arrested are being interogated.

The source explained that the Syrian regime was involved in Al-Qawasimi's assassination through its agents, who carried out the operation in coordination and cooperation with it.

The source indicated that two of the four persons arrested carried out the operation. They were in a green Japanese-made car. He added that eyewitnesses had provided descriptions of the two persons who carried out the operation. The descriptions the two

and of the car facilitated their arrest and helped the Jordanian authorities impound the car.

The Palestinian source said that a statement on the interrogation's results will be issued later.

'No Progress' in Investigation

JN302019 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] A ranking Jordanian official said in Amman this evening that no progress has been achieved yet in the current investigation on the assassination of PLO Executive Committee member Fahd al-Qawasimi in Amman yesterday. However, the Jordanian official explained that the Jordanian security organs have interrogated several persons so far.

AL-RA'Y Condemns Al-Qawasimi Assassination

JN300955 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 30 Dec 84 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Terrorism Is the Weapon of Cowards"]

[Text] Those who plotted and planned the heinous crime that took the life of Fahd al-Qawasimi yesterday were mistaken if they believed for one moment that they could obstruct or restrain the free Palestinian will through terrorism. This will has proven its ability to overcome obstacles, disregard threats, and managed to convene the PNC on schedule.

They were also mistaken if they imagined for one moment that their tool of crime could hamper the Jordanian-Palestinian march or prevent it from confronting the challenges. They were even more mistaken if they believed that they could save the perpetrators from the just punishment that will inevitably reach them and expose those who instigated them to the world.

Only honorable men respect the sanctity of arms that refuse to be used for cowardly assassination and to be directed at those who uphold the cause. Only honorable men do not resort to crime in order to impose a view or a course and regard the shedding of Arab blood the greatest sin that cannot be forgiven.

Our honorable, militant Arab masses regard Al-Qawasimi's assassination as the poisoned arrowhead that they despise but do not fear. While condemning the instigators and perpetrators, these masses strongly believe in the cohesion and courage of the Palestinian will and its ability to continue its march while embracing their martyrs and rising above those who conspire against them. Moreover, our honorable, militant Arab masses believe that Jordan is the honorable men's arena and that there is no room in it for the rancor of conspirators and their tools. In light of this fact, the dastardly hands that lie in wait for the Palestinian leaders shall be severed and everyone knows that Jordan carries out what it preaches.

The Zionist design to liquidate the Palestinian leaders is known to everyone. If there is a group of cowards that has placed itself in one way or another at the service of this design then the fate of this group will not be better than the fate of any traitor to his homeland and cause. Punishment will inevitably fall upon such a group and the Arab nation will inevitably be rid of it.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Condemns Al-Qawasimi Killing

JN301125 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Dec 84 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "So That the Conspiracy Is Completed"]

[Text] With pain and agony and admiration and reverence, our Jordanian-Palestinian family mourns Fahd al-Qawasimi, one of its best men and a Palestinian struggler whose life was highlighted by real service to the Palestinian cause and defense of the Palestinian people's rights.

When Hebron elected him to be its representative as it faced the oppression of occupation, the man's stands and struggle embodied the Muslim city's heartbeat, pride, and Arabism. His expulsion and the expulsion of his comrades from the land where he was born and his records in the occupation's register were a testimony to the city of Hebron and to the man who, far from the city, faithfully represented it as a struggling citizen responsible for its territory.

The unanimous decision to elect Fahd al-Qawasimi to the highest Palestinian office was a testimony to the man's true affiliation and loyalty to his nation's principles and cause.

Fahd al-Qawasimi's martyrdom by dastardly hands instigated by conspiratorial sides against Palestinian action and leaders is aimed at completing the circle of the conspiracy that began with the occupation's expulsion of people and their leaders from the land and ended with the conspiracy to vacate the Palestinian arena of its honorable men. Thus the arena would be left wide open to those who have suspect motives and who meet with Israel's objectives aimed at liquidating the legitimate Palestinian action and plunging it into an internal apostasy that would give Israel every opportunity to complete its expansionist designs while the people of the land are fighting side battles that exhaust their energies and distract them from the objectives and priorities of their struggle.

The home of a Palestinian leader was subjected to sabotage 2 days ago. However, God did not wish that to succeed. Today, another Palestinian leader died, indicating the nature of the conspiracy aimed at Palestnian action at this stage.

The obvious goal of these operations is not merely individuals but the Palestinian will represented in the Palestinians' unanimous decision to elect these leaders. Those who conspired against their people, who lost their trust, took up arms agaisnt their comrades, and shed the blood of their comrades in arms, find only crime as their method and assassination as their way of unsettling the conscience of their people and nation.

Those who are conspiring today to liquidate the leaders of their people are deeply involved in the conspiracy to liquidate their people's cause and identity. The martyrdom of one of their leaders will make the people who gave tens of thousands of martyrs in defending their free will more determined to defend

their free will. Right cannot be extinguished by the rancorous mouths and hands or the conspiracies of dark cellars.

The assassination of the innocent is a condemnation of all the suspect sides that stand behind it and an incentive for all of us to confront the conspiracy aimed at our sons, while those who instigate this assassination are too cowardly to harm one hair of those who daily violate our people's dignity and holy shrines.

O struggler, proceed to eternal paradise for you have delivered the message and believe in your nation's ability. You did not spare your life in defending what is right. The treacherous hand will only enhance your honorable position among your people and nation and bestow upon you a worthy position along with this nation's immortal martyrs.

King Addresses Islamic Guidance Conference

JN301052 [Editorial report] Amman Television Service in Arabic at 1830 GMT on 29 December carries a 30-minute, video recorded speech by King Husayn opening the first Islamic preaching and guidance conference, organized by the Jordanian Awqaf Ministry, in Amman on 29 December. The king begins his speech by thanking the Awqaf Ministry for holding this conference and giving him the opportunity to address it. He then goes on to speak about the assassination of PLO's Fahd al-Qawasimi. He says: "As I speak to you, my heart is being torn apart and there are tears in my eyes. I speak to you only 1 hour after the hands of treachery, murder, cowardice, and agentry assassinated Fahd al-Qawasimi, PLO Executive Committee member, who left for his God's abode, joining the caravan of martyrs, with a restful, satisfied mind because he has carried out his duties toward his homeland and religion as best as can be. He paid the tax of blood and sacrifice for Hebron, Jerusalem, and Palestine in the costliest possible manner.

"Al-Qawasimi was elected by the people of his town and birthplace, Hebron, as a mayor because of his traits and sincere nationalism, his strong determination and love for his homeland and nation, and his faith in his Arabism and religion. The occupation authorities chased him and uprooted him from the land in which he grew up and which he loved. He came out to continue his struggle alongside his brothers. The murderers pursued and killed him so they may cut off an arm of struggle, thereby thinking that they would silence the voice of truth and courage. They never thought that the good elements in this nation would remain forever, and that our nation would continue to offer martyrs for the sake of truth and duty regardless of the defeatism, agentry, and treachery that it might face.

"Mercy be upon you Abu Khalid [Fahd al-Qawasimi]. Your final abode is paradise in which you will reside among the martyrs, the pious, and the faithful. Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with God: Of them some have completed their vow to the extreme, and some still wait; but they have never changed their determination in the least. [Koranic verse]"

The king then goes on to speak of preaching as part of the endeavors of the Muslim. He says that in view of its meagre resources, Jordan's contribution toward the cause of Islam in the world was confined to giving advice through its membership in a number of Islamic organizations. Hence the great significance of holding this conference in Amman. The king says: "Preaching and guidance is a pure humanitarian process that the Muslim carries out, in accordance with Islamic rules and teachings, in the interest of his brother Muslims in other societies of varied social, cultural, and economic circumstances." He then says that the preacher must be patient, attentive, and pure in heart and tongue. He should be a good example and must practice what he preaches. He should not despise or hold in contempt the culture of those to whom he preaches Islam, and must take into consideration the varied cultural and social backgrounds of peoples. The king says that these principles are taken from the Koran and the prophet's tradition and are "the same principles which non-Muslims are abiding by today in their political, religious, and social activities."

The king says: "The message of Islam is characterized by absolute comprehensiveness. It combines divine and mundane values, spirit and matter, the needs of the individual, and the interest of the group. Growth and development are facts in this world and to deny them is utter ignorance of the nature of life. Teach your sons to deal with a time that differs from yours." The king goes on to say that Islam established its international cultural dimension only after contacting other cultures, that the scientific heritage of which we are proud today was the outcome of the period in which Islam interacted with other cultures with confidence and interest.

The king adds: "Closing doors is synonymous with fanaticism and renouncing dialogue. How can we accept this situation when our own religion was established on reason and dialogue?" He further adds: "Renouncing dialogue does not mean only fanaticism and neglecting reason, which Islam stresses, but also the absence of the most important Islamic characteristic and values; namely, toleration, which distinguished the Islamic history in all Islamic countries and throughout the great Islamic events. Let us remember that lack of toleration will lead to fanatic sectarianism from which some Muslim states are now suffering. Undoubtedly, this lack of toleration is one of the weapons that our enemies are using to implement their hopes of weakening us, dominating our resources, and controlling our present and future."

Concluding his speech, the king calls on preachers to develop their countries and preserve the identity of their nation away from religious differences and fanaticism because "God is one, religion is one, and society in its cultural fabric is one."

King Husayn, Yasir 'Arafat Hold Talks

JN301942 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at Al-Nadwah Palace this evening. The meeting, which was interrupted by a working dinner, was attended on the Jordanian side by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Court Minister

'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, Occupied Territories Minister Shawkat Mahmud, General Intelligence Chief Lieutenant General Tariq 'Ali' al-Din, and Royal Court Secretary General Raja'i al-Dajani.

The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, PLO Executive Committee members Bishop Iliya Khury, Brigadier General 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, and Jawid al-Ghusayn; and Fatah Central Committee members Salah Khalaf, Hani al-Hasan, and Khalil al-Wazir.

Interior Minister Comments on 'Subversive Efforts'

NC282231 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA) — Sulayman 'Arar, Jordanian deputy prime minister and interior minister, has emphasized that Egypt has always been the leader of the Arab world and that no other country has taken its place. He said that Jordan looks forward to establishing even fuller relations with Egypt.

On subversive efforts against Jordan since its restoration of relations with Egypt, the Jordanian interior minister, in an interview for the newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* that will be published on Saturday, said that attempts to penetrate his country's borders have been made, but all were discovered and defeated.

He said that Jordan knows exactly who has carried out actions against Jordanian embassies abroad, along with the party that is financing these efforts, but added that Jordan does not resort to the pursuit of its enemies abroad because that would be uncivilized.

Internationally, he said, Jordan behaves confidently and in a civilized way, which is why the free world views it with respect and confidence.

The Jordanian interior minister declined to specify those states that act against Jordan. He also chose not to publish the names of the groups that have perpetrated actions against Jordan's embassies or to disclose information about the arrest of these people.

On Egyptians who reside in Jordan, Sulayman 'Arar said in his interview with *AL-JUMHURIYAH* that they are rendering a service to the Jordanian economy and that they are under the care and hospitality of the government and of Jordan's commercial sector.

He noted that he will visit Cairo on 2 January and that the Jordanian transport minister will visit Egypt on 5 January, both visits intended to strengthen bilateral relations.

'Arar also said that Jordan exchanges security information with Egypt and other Arabs in an effort to combat international crime and terrorism.

Al-Jumayyil Returns from Talks in Damascus
NC282244 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Excerpts] President of the Republic Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil this evening returned to Bikfayya from Damascus at the end of an official 2-day visit during which he met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and held three sessions of talks with him, part of which were attended by members of the accompanying delegation.

The president of the republic's motorcade travelled along the al-Masna'-Riyaq-Ablah road. He visited the military headquarters of the Al-Biqa' command, and met with the commander of the region Brigadier General Ibrahim Shahin, the officers of the Al-Biqa' command and the Riyaq airbase officers. He had dinner with them and spoke to them on the current situation and the army's role at this stage.

Informed sources told the Information Ministry delegation that accompanied the president of the republic that the talks between Presidents al-Jumayyil and Al-Asad dealt with a number of issues, including the security situation in Beirut, the security plan for the southern coastal road up to Iqlim [al-Kharrub], and the security plan which was implemented in Tripoli. The talks also dealt with the national reconciliation issue, the reforms that must be prepared to bring about reconciliation, the [words indistinct], and stopping the media campaigns. There was an emphasis on the army's role in implementing the security plans and rendering them successful and the need to give it a free hand in all regions in accordance with a security concept that achieves the success and effectiveness of the measures. The talks also dealt with the economic situation and the effect of the national reconciliation on it and on the security situation. The talks also focused on the dangers facing the Lebanese monetary situation at the current stage as it has become necessary to tackle this problem seriously and effectively.

There was agreement on the need for coordination between Beirut and Damascus to help Lebanon in overcoming the difficulties it is facing.

These sources added that the talks dealt with the Tripoli security plan and the need to consolidate and develop it because the situation continues to be fragile despite the progress made. There was satisfaction with the presence of the army in Tripoli and with its role which met with the satisfaction of the inhabitants of Tripoli. There was agreement on the need to develop this security situation so that it will become stable and the army's presence will lead to the consolidation of security and to providing peace of mind. Agreement was reached on developing the present security force.

Regarding the coastal plan, the sources expressed hope that it will be implemented very soon after the obstacles in the way of its implementation have been overcome. Within this framework, peripheral meetings were held among a number of the Lebanese delegation members, Syrian officials, and concerned parties during which agreement was reached on the coastal plan. It is hoped that it will be implemented this time.

The question of opening the international Damascus road was raised. It was agreed on reviving the previously laid down plan which stipulates the opening of the road from Al-Jumhur to Sawfar. The Lebanese Army command will start preparations for the quick implementation of this plan. The plan gives a basic role for the 1st brigade which will be beefed up with other units. These combined forces will take over the international Damascus road. It has been understood that measures will be taken to cool down the Suq al-Gharb frontline and its vicinity.

Regarding the coastal road from the north to Beirut, there is serious preparation for implementing the plan and opening the road.

Concerning the issue of national reconciliation, the Lebanese and Syrian sides agreed on supporting all the steps that will bring about reconciliation and will stop the political and information escalation which in most cases is translated into an escalation of security problems. In this respect, agreement was reached on overcoming the obstacles, moving the political reforms forward, and bolstering and intensifying the work of the committees in order to conclude as quickly as possible the programs they have prepared. There are reform programs to assure all the parties and to push the Lebanese reconciliation march forward.

Regarding the issue of Lebanese-Israeli negotiations in al-Naqurah, the Lebanese side stressed the principle of full sovereignty in the south and the nonacceptance of any conditions that constitute an infringement on Lebanese sovereignty. President al-Jumayyil stressed that Lebanon is committed to all its obligations, particularly those concerning the south and the official stands taken by the present government, as well as the Security Council resolutions. He stressed the Lebanese Government's commitment to its stands on the security arrangements in the south. The Syrian side strongly supported the Lebanese stand as well as the government's stand in all fields, particularly on the issue of liberation.

In light of the talks, the sources expressed hope that the negotiations will be resumed on 7 January amid a positive atmosphere. Israel is supposed to facilitate the search for agreement and remove the obstacles and preconditions. This will serve the withdrawal of Israeli forces and will make the southern region one of real peace with which all will be content and hence will enable the Lebanese state to impose its sovereignty over the entire south.

It was agreed to continue the contacts between Lebanon and Syria to deal with political or security problems that arise.

Al-Jumayyil, Karami Appraise Results
NC291306 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil met with Prime Minister Rashid Karami at the Presidential Palace in B'abda today for a weekly meeting during which they appraised the results of the Al-Jumayyil-Al-Asad summit and the working sessions between the Lebanese and Syrian delegations at Al-Muhajirin Palace in Damascus.

The meeting ended at 1310 after which Prime Minister Karami made a statement to journalists, discussing the Lebanese-Syrian summit and describing its results as optimistic for the implementation of the coastal security plan. He called for supporting the army's role in the tasks assigned to it. Prime Minister Karami said:

[Begin recording] The president briefed me on the results of the Damascus summit. The talks and their positive results call for optimistim and reassurance that the march for salvation will continue to achieve security, reforms, and economic and liberation goals. The unity of the Lebanese is the means to deliver the people from their current sufferings. Everybody is asked to be aware of his responsibility, particularly at this phase. It is no longer permissible for anyone to behave according to his views to serve his own personal interests. Our sublime national interests demand that everybody desist from actions that will harm the march which must be pushed forward.

In Al-Naqurah, we must face matters with seriousness, frankness, and firmness to affirm the Lebanese stance which aims at safeguarding sovereignty and at creating conditions for Israel's unconditional withdrawal. We are attempting to schedule the withdrawal through the negotiations in Al-Naqurah. Lebanon will then affirm its international commitments and its adherence to all its responsibilities in this respect.

Regarding the security plan and the deployment along the coastal highways, be it toward Al-Awwali, to Sawfar, or to Tripoli, I can confirm that the obstacles have been eliminated and that we hope that the plan will be implemented soon so that 1985 will begin with bright hopes reflecting good, peace, love, and unity for all the Lebanese people.

I would like to recall and to affirm that the Lebanese Army is still the source of hope. Every soldier in the army must make further sacrifices to contribute toward the national salvation. To serve the security plans, it is no longer permissible for any functionary, party, or quarter to help those who do not want to abide by their duty and responsibility. We are all alike in the face of duty.

I would like to recall the kidnapped persons issue, and the stances of their relatives who express their bitter feelings over the failure to resolve this issue. Therefore, I repeat my appeal on the occasion of the new year so that everyone can assume his responsibility toward these persons whose issue cannot be left unresolved. Happy New Year. [end recording]

'New Proposals' for Al-Naqurah

NC310836 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Lebanese Government sources were quoted today as saying that Lebanon intends to present new proposals at the Al-Naqurah negotiations, which will be resumed on 7 January. The sources added that the proposals were worked out during the Lebanese-Syrian summit between Presidents Al-Jumayyil and Al-Asad.

Abu Nadir Calls on Karami To Ensure Success

NC291755 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Lebanese Forces commander Dr Fu'ad Abu Nadir today asked Prime Minister Rashid Karami what is he doing on a practical level to save the south and to confront the repercussions of an Israeli withdrawal from it in case the Al-Naqurah talks fail.

Dr Abu Nadir said: We do not accept that the south should be the price for the salvation of other Lebanese areas, and we do not accept that Christians should be the price for safeguarding other Lebanese communities. This is because the unity of ranks can only be safeguarded by safeguarding all the areas and all the communities. From this premise, the Lebanese Forces commander called on Prime Minister Karami and his government to take practical stands to ensure the success of the Al-Naqurah negotiations, especially since their failure will mean the development of a new security situation in the south that will threaten the unity of the land and the creation of a new political equation that will threaten the status of the Lebanese Government.

Dr Abu Nadir called on the south council to serve all the people of the south and not to limit its services to a particular group in the south.

Meanwhile, in the latest edition of *AL-BASHIRAH* magazine, the Lebanese Forces commander addressed three messages on the occasion of the new year in which he affirmed that we are staying in Lebanon despite the shelling and destruction. He promised that the march will continue and the displaced will be returned to their homes and villages.

Al-Jumayyil Addresses Ablah Barracks Officers

NC291326 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Excerpts] During his inspection of Ablah barracks last night, President Amin al-Jumayyil affirmed that the Lebanese Army is capable of rescuing Lebanon from its ordeal. He called for a historic role for the Army and said that Lebanon is more important than selfishness and personal interests.

At the officers' club, President al-Jumayyil praised the officers' stances despite the dangers, difficulties, and challenges. He called on them to implement the national tasks awaiting them to save the homeland. President al-Jumayyil added:

[Begin recording] No community can save itself at the expense of another community. No sect can save itself at the expense of another sect. No party can save itself itself at the expense of another party. Lebanon is the great family which you embody in the Lebanese Army. You in Ablah barracks are embodying this in your cohesion, unity, and solidarity. This is the guarantee for all parties, for all communities, and for all sects. No community can save itself and no party alone can save itself. The guarantee to all of us, to our parties, sects, and communities is our cohesion. If the Lebanese structure collapses, God forbid, no community, part, or sect will be spared. If it collapses it will fall upon everyone. It will spare no one. We must all cooperate together to

safeguard Lebanese sovereignty and to liberate Lebanon. Lebanon's liberation can only be achieved by our solidarity. No party, sect, or group can liberate Lebanon alone. It is the Lebanese Army which will liberate Lebanon. It is the Lebanese Army which will safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. Independence and sovereignty were shaken only when the Lebanese Army's role was disrupted. You are required today to perform a historic role in this critical phase of Lebanon's history. You are required to take a leap, to overcome selfishness, egoism, and personal interests. Lebanon is more important than selfishness and personal and group interests. [applause][end recording]

Karami Blames Israel for Lebanon's Problems

NC300828 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami has stressed that the march toward security in Lebanon is being consolidated and that the implementation of the coastal security plan is only a matter of a few days, after which the Suq al-Gharb frontline will calm down. He declared that this plan is a basic step toward lebanon's salvation.

In a press interview, Prime Minister Karami blamed Israel for all of the problems from which Lebanon is suffering. He said that Israel is the cause of the setbacks and troubles in Lebanon.

Karami Addresses Delegations in Tripoli

NC301323 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1155 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Dispatch by National Information Agency Correspondent Muhammad al-Hakim from Tripoli, Lebanon — live]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rashid Karami received several popular delegations from the northern district and Tripoli today, which conveyed their support for him and for the positions taken by the government of national unity toward the north. Prime Minister Karami addressed the delegations, saying:

[Begin recording] Our appeals and statements have always been addressed to everyone, for we are all responsible for the future of the one Lebanese family. By calling for the unity of the state, its institutions, and the Lebanese people, we mean the rejection of all aspects and forms of plotting. It is no longer a secret that the plot is intended primarily to partition and split this country. As long as we believe in the unity of our country and people, we must be true to the slogan we espouse. Deeds, not words, serve our objectives. Popular unity means cooperation, trust, and good treatment. Otherwise, we would actually be tearing down the tent over our heads. I do not believe that this is the objective of any group. We must show the necessary awareness and obey our consciences, to serve our society and our common goals, which include the liberation of the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya. I believe that this is the goal of all. However, we cannot liberate parts of our country occupied by the enemy while engaging in all of these abnormal and exhausting practices against each other, which serve only to weaken our march.

We know that the enemy will seek to incite disagreement among us if he finds us in accord. This would do a great deal to promote his goals and ambitions. How can we have security if we are all armed and mobilized and if our hatred is pushing us to kill, kidnap, and snipe at one another? Regrettably, Lebanon has become a huge prison, in which every one is being detained and abducted. We all call for the release of kidnapped persons, yet we watch new kidnappings take place daily.

The government of national unity consists of 10 persons, but of only 9 in practice. Perhaps the huge burdens that we shoulder require that all act as ministers in this government. It is not the position in which a citizen is active that is important, but the objective for which he works. We are all affected by negative incidents and their results. Similarly, we are all responsible for dealing with their implications, for our legacy is huge and heavy and has many negative aspects. [end recording]

Asked about the security plan for the coastal area and the south, the prime minister said:

[Begin recording] God willing, we hope that the plan will be successful this time. It will be soon, God willing. May the new year be the beginning of good. I mean, of course, the day after tomorrow. [laughter][end recording]

Nabih Birri Comments on Security, Al-Naqurah

NC281740 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1415 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Interview with Nabih Birri, Lebanese minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs and minister of justice and hydroelectric resources, by an unidentified radio reporter for the "Personality of the Week" program; date and place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Mr Nabih, our first question: What has impeded the implementation of the security plan for the coastal road to date, given that it has gained the approval of all international parties.

[Birri] In my humble opinion, implementation of the coastal road plan would put an end to the Lebanese civil war. Unfortunately, it appears that there is no intention of ending this war. Procrastination is in full swing. As we have all noticed, this plan is being treated as a ball that is being kicked back and forth by two teams, the Cabinet and the Military Council. Today in particular, we discovered that there is no genuine interest in implementing the coastal road plan.

I would go so far as to say that the escalation that took place in Jun, the arrests there yesterday and the day before, are a clear message that there is no intention of implementing the security plan. People would not have been evicted from this township had stated intentions toward the coastal road plan been true.

There is a big question mark here. As long as all Lebanese declare themselves to be keen — indeed, enthusiastic — about this plan, why is the procrastination taking place? The plan is more a political plan for reconciliation than a security plan. The answer

is that the Israelis are actively hindering any systematic efforts [words indistinct] in Lebanon.

[Reporter] Do you mean that the Israeli factor is still influencing the regime and the Lebanese Forces?

[Birri] The Israeli factor is still influencing the area, and this is certainly true of the Lebanese Forces.

[Reporter] How are you, the patriotic ministers in the Cabinet, going to respond if the plan is not implemented?

[Birri] We took a certain stand in the Cabinet today. We will wait for a few days and watch the progress in implementation. Should procrastination continue, we will take a clear and blunt stand.

[Reporter] Mr Nabih, do you think that the next thing we will be telling the citizens, who are waiting impatiently for the implementation of the coastal plan, is that it has collapsed?

[Birri] The ball is st ll being hit back and forth between the two teams, as I said. I would not say that the game is lost. I would not want to sponsor any pessimism.

[Reporter] Mr Birri, let's go back to the Jun incident to which you referred. What is the president's responsibility in this regard, given that some sources — the regime's sources, to be specific — have been saying that the president has control over the Lebanese Forces and the Phalangist Party.

[Birri] I believe that he has influence over the Phalangist Party. I do not believe that he has influence over the Lebanese Forces. Such influence remains out of reach. If the president had such influence over the Lebanese Forces, he would be the only individual to blame for what is happening in the Al-Kharrub region.

[Reporter] Mr Nabih, we now move to the Al-Naqurah negotiations. It is being said that tHese negotiations have not recessed but have rather moved behind the scenes and that the period from 20 December to 7 January is decisive in the negotiations process?

[Birri] Lebanon entered the Al-Naqurah negotiations not as a negotiator. It entered the Al-Naqurah negotiations as a military delegation to implement the armistice agreement that has been in force since 1949. Therefore, whenever something has happened, it has been customary in Lebanon for the military committees to meet to implement the armistice agreement. What is the only difference between Lebanon and the rest of the Arab countries? The difference is that Lebanon is occupied and there are UN forces in southern Lebanon. For this reason, we should follow the course of military talks on the basis of UN resolutions, particularly resolution 425, which governs the presence of the United Nations and the UN forces in southern Lebanon, as well as on the basis of the armistice agreement.

Israel wanted the talks to be real negotiations through which it would move the ball from its court to Lebanon's court before world public opinion. Israel holds the view that the UN forces are ineffective and it has no confidence in them. But suddenly, overnight, it reversed its view, especially after the assumption of power by the Israeli Labor Party, which is experienced in international affairs and which appears before the world public as flexible and peace-loving when, in fact, it is the warlord behind the wars launched against the Arabs as well as the author of the 1978 theory [Nazariyah]. What is the 1978 theory? It is that Israel appears to world public opinion as having withdrawn from Lebanon. Meanwhile, it would leave its agents in Lebanon to control a certain area which Israel regards as a security fence for itself. In 1978 Israel believed that such a fence could be about 10 miles wide. For this reason, Israel ostensibly withdrew in 1978 from all the Lebanese areas but kept Sa'd Haddad's forces in the 10 mile strip which was later called Free Lebanon.

The same thing is being repeated now in the sense that Israel would ostensibly withdraw from all of Lebanon. It is claiming and saying that it intends to withdraw. It is truthful but only outwardly so. What does it really have in mind? It wants the UN emergency forces to be deployed between the Al-Awwali and Al-Litani rivers. It would then ostensibly withdraw from Al-Litani to the border but it would keep Lahd, who is a greater version of Sa'd Haddad there and the UN forces would have an enlarged role to play between the two rivers. As a result of all this, southern Lebanon would shrink and a buffer zone would exist in southern Lebanon — in a sense that there would be a [word indistinct]; there would be the Lebanese security forces, then the UN emergency forces, and then the Lahd forces before one could reach the international border between Lebanon and Palestine.

For this reason, we said that approving such a view and proposal would mean that Resolution 425 has been willingly abolished by Lebanon. Resolution 425 stipulates that the UN emergency forces will support the Lebanese authorities up to the international border. However, according to the Israeli view the UN emergency forces would support the Lebanese authority, but northward instead of southward and instead of protecting the borders between Lebanon and Israel, they would end up — as if this is what is intended — being deployed between Lebanon and Syria. [Sentence indistinct] In such an event, an illegitimate army, the army of Lahd, would have the real role with regard to the borders. Hence, the armistice agreement and Resolution 425 would have been abolished and we would have entered a new labyrinth which only God knows how to get out of. In the best of circumstances, this would most certainly divide the south into two big parts and would keep the Lebanese situation as it is.

Therefore, I believe that th decision made by the Lebanese Cabinet and the behavior of the military delegation at the Al-Naqurah talks were equal to what was required on this matter.

When Israel could not force the Lebanese negotiator to go from negotiating the implementation of the armistice agreement to negotiating a new agreement altogether, it began to play tricks and to claim that Lebanon is responsible for the suspension or obstruction of the talks and that Lebanon thereby rejects the United Nations. While it was making such allegations, Israel was violating the UN forces' areas in seven heroic southern villages, which confronted fresh Israeli forces that entered the south with about 1,000 vehicles, believing that they could subdue these villages and remain there. In fact, the Israeli campaign failed. I will not be divulging a secret when I say that the result of the

battles that took place in these seven villages — even the material result — was a scandalous loss sustained by Israel. As a result of the resistance by women and children — not by men, and without the use of weapons — some 50 Israelis were killed or wounded. We have information to corroborate this.

What Israel wants is an excuse to own a part of Lebanon, the borders of which would be the sources of water of which Israel has always spoken and which it has historically coveted.

[Reporter] What, then, is the use of the Al-Naqurah talks?

[Birri] The talks are very important, as long as they are conducted on the basis of a patriotic stand. Lebanon should not appear to the world public as if it is making no attempt to restore its rights. The Lebanese cause must be known, as must the armistice agreement. If we were to avoid talks, we would be fulfilling Israel's wishes. What are those wishes? Israel is trying to give the impression that the armistice agreement does not exist. We would lend credit to this impression if we did not engage in the talks.

We went to the negotiating table with the armistice agreement, and we will hold fast to this agreement. Israel is trying to say that the armistice agreement was rendered invalid after 1967. We made this point clear to Shultz in his talks with me and Prime Minister Karami during the 39th UN General Assembly session.

[Reporter] Mr Nabih, Israel has been threatening to carry out unilateral measures for some time now. Do you think that Israel might implement a partial withdrawal, and how would this endanger the south?

[Birri] Israel has always warned of such a partial withdrawal. This is a card that Israel is threatening to play, as if it would cause Lebanon to lose. I would contend that this card is in our favor and would not work against us. Let Israel decide upon whatever partial withdrawal it wants. What we are seeking is a complete withdrawal. A partial withdrawal would not worry us. [Words indistinct] that such a withdrawal would work against the Lebanese. I would say that the [words indistinct] is immune to such a withdrawal. The way in which Israel withdraws is the last thing I am worried about. What we are fighting for is their complete withdrawal from Lebanese soil. Still, you know, and this has been said more than once and has been borne out in practice, as long as an inch of Lebanese soil is occupied by the Israelis, our national resistance will not cease.

[Reporter] Mr Nabih, do you think that the Al-Naqurah talks will be resumed after the holidays, on schedule?

[Birri] Yes, I think so, and the maneuvers will also be resumed. All of the threats to break up the talks are sheer blackmail, in my opinion. The Al-Naqurah talks will be resumed, and, with them, Israel's attempts to influence and weaken our stands — which is, of course, (?out of the question).

[Reporter] speaking of the Al-Naqurah talks, you seem to view them in isolation from their regional setting. We know that some regional powers have an effect on the course of these talks; what do you have to say about this?

[Birri] There is no doubt that regional and international factors do influence the course of the talks. You are right. But, as long as there is a popular system of government, the compass' needle will always point in the direction of popular struggle.

Shaykh Sha'ban Attacks Karami, Phalangists

NC281327 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] In his sermon today, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban [leader of the Islamic Unification Movement] attacked Prime Minister Rashid Karami, the Phalangist Party, and the regime, maintaining that they are people who do not carry a cause, but who carry hatred. They are racists who have been raised at the hands of the Jews.

Shaykh Sha'ban rejected their entry into Tripoli behind the Lebanese Army because this will lead to great strife in the city.

Christian Leader Calls for UNIFIL Deployment

NC291831 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Nizar Nazarian, head of the Free Christian grouping, has experssed his regret over the state of the Al-Naqurah negotiations. He said the negotiations do not herald good results and do not cause one to be hopeful that the desired solution will be achieved because the state does not accept the deployment of the UN emergency forces. We do not think, he said, that their deployment will detract from Lebanon's sovereignty. Therefore, we ask and insist that the state accept the deployment of the UN emergency forces in all the south and even in Iqlim al-Kharrub.

AMAL-PSP Delegation Returns from Damascus Talks

NC310711 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] A delegation representing the Amal Movement and the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] and consisting of Dr Muhammad Baydun and Akram Shuhayyib returned from Damascus last night following a meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Shuhayyib said that they conveyed two messages to Syrian Vice President Khaddam from Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt, and that Khaddam briefed them on the results of the summit talks between Presidents Al-Jumayyil and Hafiz al-Asad. Shuhayyib added: We held talks on the security plan, which was approved by the Military Council and accepted in its final amended form by the various parties. We also affirmed our eagerness to implement it and to ensure its success.

PSP sources expect a tripartite meeting to be held in Damascus early next week by Ministers Birri and Junblatt and Syrian Vice President Khaddam, to assess developments in the Lebanese situation. The sources pointed out that measures will be taken soon to calm the combat lines on the mountain, but expressed their concern at the continuing deterioration of these lines, which may hinder or even defeat such measures.

Army Commander Visits Zgharta, Meets Franjiyah

NC291533 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Army Commander General Michel 'Awn, heading a ranking military delegation, arrived at Zgharta this afternoon, where he held a closed meeting with former President Sulayman Franjiyah. This will be followed by an expanded meeting involving all members of the military delegation.

Gen 'Awn had earlier arrived at the northern military command headquarters and held a meeting with the commanding officer there. Gen 'Awn was briefed on the existing situation in Tripoli now that the army has assumed its security responsibilities there. At the end of the meeting, Gen 'Awn gave the necessary directives.

Hezbollah Rejects Any UN forces' Role

NC301040 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 28 Dec 84 p 4

[Text] In a statement issued yesterday, Hezbollah rejects "any role by the UN emergency forces in any part of our territory. We will find ourselves forced to resist them as hostile forces that are allied with the Zionist enemy, particularly since their collusion in the Israelis' attacks on seven heroic villages in the district of Tyre has been demonstrated before the entire world, and the suspect role played by the French forces in this operation has been exposed."

The statement added: We will not be deterred by the actions of local mercenary tools or by the Phalangist plans to blockade Muslim areas in Beirut, Tripoli, or Iqlim al-Kharrub. On the contary, such actions will prompt us to be prepared to defend our Muslim people with all of our power when the time comes.

Birri Briefed on Coastal Security Plan

NC300742 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, stressed yesterday that he will feel reassured only when the coastal security plan is indeed implemented, adding: As long as no date has been set for the plan's implementation, we must be cautious and not overly optimistic.

Minister Birri received an army command delegation yesterday, which told him that the plan will be implemented simultaneously from Al-Awwali to Al-Madfun, perhaps at the outset of the new year.

The delegation told Minister Birri that all problems have been eliminated, that progress toward implementation is being made, and that a final agreement has been reached in Damascus on that implementation.

Minister Birri said that he and Ministers al-Huss and Walid Junblatt adhere to the agreement drafted by the Military Council on the Cabinet's request.

Contacts between Beirut and Damascus in preparation for implementing the plan are being maintained. In this context, a delegation from the Amal Movement and the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] will leave for Damascus today to discuss certain details of the plan with Syrian officials. These details, as reported, will pave the way for the Military Council to set a date for the plan's implementation.

Former Minister Khalid Junblatt returned from Damascus yesterday following a meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, with whom he reviewed the Lebanese situation and the results of the Damascus summit. Immediately on his return, he briefed Minister Birri on his visit.

PSP Accuses Government Organs of Car Explosion

NC291308 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] At 1307 today, the suspect regime's organs detonated a booby-trapped car in the yard of the district office building in Al-Shuwayfat. The car is a Mercedes 450S. The explosion caused casualties and material damage. The Progressive Socialist Party security organs cordoned off the scene of the explosion and started investigations.

We have been informed that the explosion left four persons dead and seven injured, three of whom were slightly injured. The other four have been taken to the hospital for treatment.

Jewish Settlement Report Called 'Blackmail'

NC300746 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Commenting on press reports that some Jews want to settle in southern Lebanon, Shaykh Mahmud Farhat, director general of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, has said that Israel's talk about establishing settlements in southern Lebanon is an exposed attempt to intimidate and blackmail Lebanon. This falls within the same category as the security and political blackmail used by Israel on the mountain and in Beirut to force the Lebanese negotiator to make concessions, at the expense of the principled and firm stances to which lebanon adheres.

U.S.-Israeli Plan to Close Beirut Airport Charged

NC300707 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Citing a political report that was recently received by Beirut, today's edition of *AL-LIWA'* says that the U.S. Administration is working with Tel Aviv to prepare a military operation to close the Beirut Airport, after which negotiations on reopening it would be initiated, but on the condition that the airport is placed under the control of the legitimate military authorities, whom they trust. These authorities would then guarantee travel to and from the airport, without terrorist infiltration.

The diplomatic report cited informed security sources as saying that, following the Kuwaiti airliner operation, Washington has

begun (?to view) the airport as a staging point for the export of terrorism to the region and the world. The U.S. Administration has come to the conclusion that more than 10 percent of all terrorist operations could be forestalled were this airport closed. The report added that the plan calls for the removal of the political and partisan parties that now control movement at the airport, because they are facilitating terrorist operations. *AL-LIWA'* also cites the report as indicating that the operation would probably be followed by similar U.S.-Israeli actions in various regions of Lebanon, on the pretext of combatting and pursuing terrorism in the Middle East.

Amal Frees Kidnapped Shaykh Sadiq
NC290947 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0922 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Shaykh Mahdi Sadiq, director general of social development, has been freed. He was kidnapped by gunmen 4 days ago. The Amal movement's security authorities were able to determine where Shaykh Sadiq was held and subsequently freed him and took him to the residence of Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs and minister of justice and hydroelectric resources, at 1045 this morning.

Four Wounded in Confrontation With Israelis
NC281427 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The south is again appealing to the world conscience to intervene to put an end to the enemy's barbaric crimes against the people and property of the south. Four people were wounded this morning as a result of Zionist treachery. They w[illegible]wounded in a violent confrontation between the Zionist ene[illegible] and the residents of Tayr Dibbah and Ma'rakah.

A mechanized Zionist force comprising 50 vehicles besieged the two villages at 0830 today and tried to storm their houses. The residents closed the approaches to the two villages with burning tires. They attacked the enemy soldiers with stones and sticks. The occupation army opened fire indiscriminately toward the residents. The French unit in the two villages supported the residents and prevented the enemy force from entering the villages. The enemy force later lifted the siege on the two villages after failing to arrest any resident.

Meanwhile, national and Islamic resistance fighters this morning attacked an enemy patrol east of Tyre, using rockets and automatic weapons. The enemy radio admitted the operation, but claimed that the attack did not cause any casualties among the patrol members.

Resistance fighters also attacked an enemy patrol at dawn today on the Al-'Aqbiyah road, using rockets. A number of enemy soldiers were killed or wounded. Resistance fighters this morning also attacked an enemy patrol on the (Al-Musaylih) road, in the Al-Nabatiyah district. No information is available about the losses suffered in this attack.

Reports from the south say that a Katyusha rocket was fired at dawn toward Metulla, in the occupied Palestinian land, and hit its targets. The occupation forces immediately sealed off the area around Al-'Addusiyah and searched it. They discovered another two rockets prepared for firing toward the same settlement.

Armenian Terrorists Attack French Interests
NC282125 Paris AFP in English 2120 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] Beirut, Dec 28 (AFP) — Two bomb attacks against French interests here tonight have been claimed by the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA), which also threatened to blow up an Air France plane in mid-flight, police sources said.

An anonymous telephone caller to a foreign news agency here claimed responsibility for the two bombings, in which no one was injured, at the Franco-Lebanese Fransabank and Air France offices in Christian areas here.

The caller, speaking Arabic, said ASALA had decided six days ago to "blow up a plane from the Air France company in flight, with all passengers aboard."

The decision will "very soon be executed," he said.

ASALA claimed responsibility for a bomb at Orly Airport near Paris in the summer of 1983 which killed several people.

Another bomb went off tonight at the College of the Brothers of Wisdom in Moslem West Beirut.

No link has been established between the attacks.

Al-Asad, Al-Jumayyil Hold Talks 28 Dec

JN281605 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil held a closed meeting at the Presidential Palace in Al-Muhajirin at 1045 today during which they continued their discussion of the subjects raised at yesterday's two meetings. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the vice president; Dr 'Abd al-Rauf al-Kasm, the prime minister; and Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister, joined the meeting later. The meeting ended at 1600 today.

Discussions of the topics that were raised in Thursday's two meetings were completed in today's meeting. These topics are related to the Lebanese situation from the various political and security considerations, and to the march of national reconciliation and security. Special attention was devoted to the Lebanese security situation and to the implementation of the coastal highway plan. Other security steps were approved that will strengthen the march of national reconciliation and establish an atmosphere of detente in Lebanon. Issues of joint concern were discussed in detail in light of the need for concerted efforts aimed at realizing the evacuation of the Israeli occupation forces from all the Lebanese areas without any delay and with no conditions that might impinge on Lebanon's sovereignty or independence. President Hafiz al-Asad reiterated Syria's support for Lebanon in its efforts to liberate its territory, restore its sovereignty, and preserve the unity of its territory and people.

A cordial, fraternal atmosphere prevailed during the meetings between President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil — an atmosphere which stems from the fraternal relations that exist between the two countries and from the spirit of understanding between the two governments and their joint endeavors to carry out the march of liberation, reconciliation, and security and begin rebuilding Lebanon so that its health, unity, and sovereignty will be restored. This march of liberation, reconciliation, and security will help speed up the evacuation of the Israeli occupiers from all the areas they occupy. It was agreed to continue contacts in the future.

Al-Jumayyil Departs

JN281743 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil left Damascus this evening. He was seen off at the Shooting Club by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

AL-BA'TH on Talks

JN300930 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Under the headline "Lebanon Will Not Remain the Weaker Link," *AL-BA'TH* says: Lebanese political circles and mass media agree that the summit meeting in Damascus between Hafiz al-Asad and Amin al-Jumayyil is an important turning point that will deepen and develop fraternal cooperation between Syria and Lebanon. Consequently, this meeting is a qualitative step in working together to restore Lebanon's complete sovereignty, particularly liberating its territories from the Israeli occupiers.

Lebanese political circles find that this meeting has achieved all its objectives and that its outcome was met with official and popular satisfaction. It is certain that a practical interpretation of this meeting's results will take place shortly. This will reflect positively on the entire Lebanese situation.

The paper adds: No doubt, the continued Israeli occupation of parts of Lebanon has been the foremost concern of President al-Asad and Al-Jumayyil. It is certain that there has been complete agreement on tackling this issue in the interests of the sovereignty and unity of the Lebanese territory and people.

The paper says that it must be stressed that Syria considers continuation of the Zionist occupation of parts of Lebanon as continuation of the Lebanese internal crisis itself. Therefore, and in order to defuse all mines that Israel is trying to plant in the face of the Lebanese Government to prevent it from continuing the national salvation march, we say that the security file must be closed promptly and completely. This must be directly followed by implementing the political reforms' file to reach firm, strong, and unshakable national unity that will be able to confront the external challenges, particularly the Zionist occupation forces that must be forced to withdraw unconditionally and without achieving any gains on the ground.

The paper concludes: We in Syria realize the amount of pressure being put on Lebanon to submit to Israel's demands. The security disurptions here and there are no more than a part of this pressure. But again we recall the various pressures, even greater than the present ones, before the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. Despite those pressures, the 17 May agreement was abrogated. However, those who think that Lebanon will accept less than a total Israeli wihdrawal from all the Lebanese territories without any conditions, restrictions, or gains, will be mistaken.

Radio Commentary Highlights Summit

JN301557 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The success of the Syrian-Lebanese summit has reflected both official and popular satisfaction. It has stressed the need in the coming days to crystalize and interpret its results into tangible steps, and to intensify contacts and consultations in order to implement these results. This optimism was also reflected by Prime Minister Rashid Karami who said that this summit will lead to entrenching the march of security along with economic salvation and liberation, and that the unity of the Lebanese is a basic factor in saving our people from their sufferings.

The Lebanese officials' concentration on the need to understand their responsibilities by not allowing anybody to behave according to his opinion or in the service of his own interests — especially since the higher national interests require all parties to cooperate in order to avoid anything that may harm the march of salvation — means that they want to confront all issues in the Al-Naqurah negotiations seriously, frankly, and firmly and in a way that stresses Lebanon's position, which is aimed at securing supremacy and creating the proper climate for an unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli forces, especially after all the obstacles to the implementation of the security plan and the deployment of the Lebanese Army along the coastal road near the Al-Madfun and the Al-Awwali bridges have been overcome.

The Lebanese-Syrian summmit has achieved success because it dealt with all the problems in detail in order to reach solutions to all the obstacles that hamper the efforts to liberate Lebanese territories from the Zionist occupiers and to continue the march of national accord and security in Lebanon, particularly since all the issues that were discussed are of mutual interest between Lebanon and Syria. All efforts shouid be united to liberate the land and overcome all the obstacles that are hampering the salvation march. This should be done with the purpose of safeguarding the Lebanese people's unity and land, and utilizing every factor that may strengthen national unity. Leader President Hafiz al-Asad has asserted to President al-Jumayyil that Syria will not abandon Lebanon and will continue to extend all possible assistance under the current complicated circumstances to enable it to liberate its land and achieve the necessary steps for promoting national accord and guaranteeing security for all Lebanese. This assertion refers to Syria's credibility and its serious desire to end the Lebanese crisis, especially after the steps toward salvation have accelerated regarding the implementation of the Tripoli plan, the approval of the coastal plan, and the reopening of the Beirut-Damascus Highway. These steps have reflected positively on the overall situation in Lebanon, a fact that will prevent Israel from using its blackmail card to slow down its withdrawal from Lebanon or achieve gains that Lebanon refuses to give.

Since ending the Lebanese crisis constitutes the only way to foil the Zionist plan, which is fully supported by the U.S. Administration, the Zionist figures have begun to move both secretly and publicly to undermine the results that the Damascus summit has produced. Within this framework, we can explain the recent Israeli statements that war is a way to save Israel from its deadlock represented by its deteriorating crisis, a fact that should achieve further Lebanese-Syrian coordination to confront any eventuality and overcome the obstacles that may obstruct the implementation of the security plan and political reforms aimed at achieving accord, particularly after Lebanese agreement that the Syrian Arab option is the only option that can save Lebanon and preserve its unity, land and people, and foil all the aggressive designs.

Chief of Staff Addresses Army Commanders

JN301616 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Damascus, 30 Dec (SANA) — Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, a ceremony was held here today on the graduation of a new group of commanders from various corps. President al-Asad asked General Hikmat al-Shihabi, the Army and Armed Forces chief of staff, to speak for him at the ceremony.

The commander of the higher military academy delivered a speech in which he asserted that a deep belief in national duty, discipline, and military education are the meaningful and practical bases for achieving the best results in the battles of steadfastness and confrontation which our Armed Forces are waging against the wanton Zionist-imperialist aggression.

In his speech Gen Hikmat al-Shihabi spoke about the events in the region. He said: The graduation of this group comes at a time when the imperialist-Zionsit conspiracies are escalating against our Arab nation, and when the U.S. agents are moving in the Arab arena in order to peddle the schemes of Washington and Tel Aviv, which are aimed at imposing complete hegemony over the Arab homeland.

Gen al-Shihabi asserted that our steadfast country will continue with its firm and principled stand to confront the conspiracies regardless of the price, backed by our masses and Armed Forces which have always been the strong arm and sharp sword of our Arab nation in confronting the forces of evil and aggression.

Interior Minister Addresses Police Graduation

JN301312 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of militant President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, a ceremony was held at the police academy in Damascus at 1000 today on the graduation of the martyr Captain 'Ali Yusuf group of police officers, subdistrict officers, and the 48th NCO training course. The president asked Interior Minister Nasir al-Din Nasir to deputize for him at the ceremony.

Nasir al-Din Nasir delivered a speech in which he noted the importance of the president's patronage of this ceremony. President al-Asad's patronage calls for more effort and work by the internal security forces to fulfill the trust of the leader president's great interest in the police organ. This interest enabled the police organ to achieve more gains and helped it on the road to development and success.

He said that, just as great, noble deeds and glorious sacrifices inspire the will of nations and the expectations of proud masses, our steadfast country's march under the great Ba'th revolution and the wise, courageous leadership of militant Comrade Hafiz al-Asad exemplifies this policy in word and deed. He said that the best examples of this are the pan-Arab and nationalist stands of our country and its vanguard revolution through its historic march, whether by its firm, principled pan-Arab stands on the Palestinian revolution and its confrontation of the liquidatory, capitulationist conspiracies or by its brotherly stands on the Lebanese issue, through which it principally seeks to halt the bloodshed in fraternal Lebanon and assist it in overcoming its crisis, recovering its well-being, and expelling the invaders and aggressors.

He affirmed that regardless of how skillfully the traitors carry out their role, our Arab nation is more capable of exposing falseness. Our Arab nation will have the decisive word on traitors and agents and is capable of thwarting all the liquidatory, capitulationist designs of the Amman-Baghdad axis and 'Arafat and his clique.

Damascus Reports on Al-Qawasimi Assassination

JN301227 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Paris —The Palestinian Black September organization last night claimed responsibility for Fahd al-Qawasimi's assassination in Amman yesterday. AFP said that an unknown person telephoned its office and said that the organization was responsible for Al-Qawasimi's assassination. The unknown caller, who said he was speaking from Rome, read a statement affirming that the Black September organization was responsible for Al-Qawasimi's assassination.

Peres Favors Traditional Working Method With U.S.

TA301414 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1344 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Excerpt] At today's Cabinet session Prime Minister Peres said that the traditional working method between the United States and Israel should not be contested; according to this method, Israel requests military and economic aid and the United States seeks clarifications on the pertinent issues.

The Cabinet was briefed today by the finance minister on the implementation of decisions on budget cuts of the ministries. It was decided that this week the legal procedures needed to implement the budget cuts would be accelerated. The Cabinet also authorized its representatives in the economic-social committee to discuss the agreement with the employers and the Histadrut.

'Development' Related to Peres U.S. TV Interview

TA301831 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] In a television interview in the United States this evening, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres disclosed that a diplomatic development has occurred in the last few days which may revive the Al-Naqurah talks. He refused to elaborate on the issue but noted that if this move succeeds, Israel may not have to effect a unilateral move in Lebanon. Peres was interviewed on the "Meet the Press" program on NBC.

Our correspondent in Washington, Razi Barqay, notes in this context that a meeting between the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations and the UN deputy secretary general is scheduled to be held either this evening or tomorrow in New York. Later, Ambassador Netanyahu will depart for Israel for consultations.

Speaking on the issue of negotiations with Jordan, Peres stated in the program: We have many plans in the event such negotiations take place, but for the time being we do not have an interlocutor around the negotiating table. Peres noted that although King Husayn had been making some positive statements recently, he is still awaiting the PLO's reply regarding joint negotiations with Israel. The prime minister pointed out that he is not optimistic about the PLO's reply.

Shamir Criticizes Unilateral Withdrawal Supporters

TA281424 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir sharply criticized those who have made statements about a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon. He said that announcements and declarations of this kind are damaging and may prevent the realization of goals that we all share. The foreign minister was addressing the Commercial Club in Tel Aviv.

He also sharply attacked those who had criticized Secretary of State Shultz, whom he called one of Israel's greatest friends.

Further on Shamir Comments

TA281715 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1630 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv, 28 Dec (ITIM) — "From the moment we eradicated the terrorist bases in Lebanon, we were no longer interested in an IDF presence in Lebanon. If we have not pulled out so far, it is only because we are convinced that once the last IDF soldier leaves, the terrorists would return to the border and attack northern Israel. Will we then start the war all over again?"

These remarks were made by the vice prime minister and foreign minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, at the Commercial and Industrial Club in Tel Aviv this evening.

The foreign minister came out against any unilateral Israeli moves which would not bring about peace, either on the part of Jordan or any other countries. "Who says that the peace initiatives of this government mean a concession of the assets of the Jewish people? At present, there is no problem in improving political relations with Egypt, and if there are differences we can talk about them. Among others, our questions are: Why do the Egyptians not return their ambassador to Israel? They say that Egyptian public opinion would not tolerate it. That is how they inflated the issue of Tabah: After we gave back 60,000 square kms, they are making a big deal over 1.5 kms. Although differences of opinion are natural, there are clauses in the peace treaty that describe how to deal with these matters. The Egyptians have time and again promised that they would be returning their ambassador to Israel. However, each time they resorted to a different excuse not to do so. We are prepared to talk about Tabah and about many other violations of the peace treaty on the part of the Egyptians."

Mr Shamir pointed out that the national unity government must prevail. "We set it up first and foremost to solve the economic problems and to heal the economy. In the past, the people who are currently sitting with us in the government undermined our attempts to heal the economy. At present, the public is cooperative and has grown calmer; it is no longer rushing to the banks to purchase foreign currency. We need the national unity government and I do not see any reason to dissolve it, not even over political issues."

Earlier, Mr Shamir sharply criticized what he termed as "the unjust and unfounded assault" on the U.S. secretary of state, who was compared to the high commissioner. "Those who said that are probably not aware of our war against the British high commissioner. We regret those utterances and we hope our good relations with the United States will not sour."

Herut Ministers Reject Unilateral Withdrawal

TA281430 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Dec 84 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir, Gay Bekhor, and Menahem Horowitz]

[Excerpts] The Herut ministers — Ari'el Sharon, Yitzhaq Shamir, Moshe Arens, David Levi, and Moshe Qatzav — will reject any suggestion raised by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres calling for a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon. This decision of the Herut ministers' forum was reached in a special consulta-

tion. Sharon is the leading force behind the Herut ministers' stand against unilateral steps to be taken by Israel in Lebanon. *HADASHOT* correspondents have learned that the Herut ministers might go as far as leaving the government if they find the plan for an IDF evacuation from Lebanon unacceptable. Construction and Housing Minister David Levi yesterday warned against "the Alignment ministers' declarations race regarding a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon," as he phrased it.

Jerusalem circles assess that Israeli pressure for a unilateral withdrawal and the concern in Lebanon regarding such a move might bring about a surprising change in Syria's attitude. The United States has also called on Israel not to take a unilateral step before the political process is exhausted.

Minister Rabin on Unilateral Move in Lebanon

TA281932 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by newsreel moderator Shim'on Tessler and military affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky — live in the studio]

[Text] [Tessler] In a meeting with correspondents this week, you assessed that we would ultimately be forced to withdraw to the international border with Lebanon even without an agreement with Syria and Lebanon. You said that in such a case you would prefer a phased withdrawal. What is the timetable you are talking about, Mr Rabin?

[Rabin] First of all, it should be made clear that the government's decision to give the Lebanese until 7 January to come up with a positive answer enabling the continuation of the talks is still in effect. That answer must be that the Lebanese agree to stationing UNIFIL troops north of the Al-Litani River and up to the Al-'Awwali River or else, in the absence of such an agreement in principle, the Israeli Government will be forced — in keeping with its own decision — to reconsider whether there is any sense in continuing the talks.

[Shlonsky] Assuming that they do not agree to that, three options are being mentioned. Appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, you enumerated the following options: a presence along the Al-'Awwali line; a withdrawal to an interim line; or a pullback to the international border. Which of these options will you support at the Cabinet?

[Rabin] I will not say that here but rather at the Cabinet after I have presented all the alternatives. I would like to make plain that the very fact that the government passed this resolution — stating that if there is no positive response as far as Israel is concerned there would be no sense in continuing the political process — has already made things move. Amin al-Jumayyil's visit in Damascus, regardless of the replies he received, is a direct consequence of the Israeli threat to stop the political process. I have indications that both the United Nations and the United States are very much afraid of a halt in the political process. Therefore, at this junction I would not like to put the cart before the horse and predict what will happen on 7 or 10 January.

[Shlonsky] Do you believe there is a chance for a political arrangement?

[Cabin] To the best of my knowledge, as things stand today Lebanon's intransigence under Syrian pressure is such that it precludes a political-military solution. In the absence of such an agreement — namely, the inability to determine mutually acceptable security arrangements — we will have to consider a decision about a unilateral move.

I would like to draw a distinction between a unilateral move and a unilateral withdrawal. A unilateral move means that Israel will have to decide what to do if it is impossible to hold a dialogue regarding security arrangements. Israel cannot on its own enforce security arrangements which would enable the IDF to pull out based only on Lebanese arrangements. As may be recalled, the government's resolution talks about security for the Galilee and bringing the IDF back home. These two objectives may only be achieved through a political-military arrangement. In the absence of such an agreement, we should make up our minds whether we prefer the former over the latter after we have compared the risks each one of these entails.

[Shlonsky] What you are actually saying is that if there is no political-military arrangement with Lebanon, Israel may remain along the Al-'Awwali River?

[Rabin] I did not say that, I just mentioned it as one possibility; I will not state my opinion at present — I just said Israeli unilateral moves. In other words, in the event of a halt of the political process and a termination of the dialogue, the first possibility is to remain along the current line, a second and extreme possibility is to withdraw to the international border, and the third possibility is to deploy along an interim line or a phased combination of the three.

[Shlonsky] What does the United States say about the adoption of unilateral moves by Israel? Will the United States support us in the event some sort of agreement is not reached at Al-Naqurah?

[Rabin] Based on past experience and my assessment of present reactions, the United States, the United Nations, and the Lebanese president — I do not know what the Syrian position is — would very much like the political process to continue.

[Shlonsky] What will happen if that is not the case?

[Rabin] If that is not the case.... [changes thought leaving sentence incomplete] You know, in diplomacy one may always find a thread to grasp. I think that when we sit down and study the matter on the eve of 7 or 10 January, Israel will have to make up its own mind whether to go ahead with the process based on the conditions existing then or to effect a unilateral move, regardless of the ongoing process.

[Shlonsky] As things stand today, do you and Israeli policy place the emphasis on the political solution?

[Rabin] According to the government's decision, the present move is a political one: to exhaust the government's decision

until 7 January and then adopt a resolution based on the Lebanese response.

[Shlonsky] We heard Shamir and other senior Likud ministers — such as Arens, Sharon, and Levi — make angry comments about the statements uttered over the week and argue that as long as security arrangements are not attained in Lebanon, there will be no withdrawal from the Al-'Awwali line. Do you believe the Alignment can pass a resolution in the Cabinet for a withdrawal if security arrangements are not attained in Lebanon?

[Rabin] I do not want to go into that at present. Without a political arrangement there can be no security arrangements other than ones based on a permanent and long — in terms of years — IDF presence in Lebanon. I am not thrilled by a forecast that would leave the IDF in Lebanon for years in view of the fact that the war in southern Lebanon at present is between the Shi'ites and Israel.

I would not like to find ourselves engaged in a protracted war against the Shi'ites as a result of a war we launched in order to crush the PLO. However, we will discuss this when we raise a concrete proposal if the political process proves futile and senseless.

[Shlonsky] As things appear today, the Alignment ministers may not be able to pass such a resolution. Does that mean the disintegration of the national unity government?

[Rabin] I do not want to speculate. I believe all the members of the Cabinet will pass a resolution based on facts and possibilities. This will be a tough issue to discuss and decide upon. As a rule, surprises in Lebanon are not necessarily good ones. There are no good solutions to the situation we currently face in Lebanon. Any solution will entail both chances and risks. There are no ideal solutions, Lebanon is a complicated country and our situation in Lebanon is also complicated and there are no easy or smooth solutions to complicated situations.

[Shlonsky] With your permission, from your remarks tonight I do not see any big difference between the position of the Likud ministers and yours. The former say that in the absence of security arrangements we should only count on the IDF along the Al-'Awwali line.

[Rabin] I did not exactly say that. I said that the government has two objectives: security for the Galilee and bringing the IDF back home. I said that both these objectives cannot be attained without a political-military arrangement. In the absence of such an arrangement, the government will have to weigh the chances and the risks and whether to place the emphasis on security or on bringing the IDF back home. However, this will have to be discussed by the government. This will not be an easy decision. It will be a tough decision since any decision on any move whatsoever will entail very big risks.

[Tessler] Mr Rabin, you probably heard Mr Shamir's remarks today; his statements were very unambiguous. If the situation gets to a point where the Likud members come out against a pullout from Lebanon and you have to decide whether to pull the government apart, what will you recommend then?

[Rabin] I will not engage in a debate with the government ministers over the media because this debate will be held by the Cabinet.

There is time and I believe that the entire government wants to attain our dual objective: both reasonable security for the Galilee and bringing the IDF back home. There is no easy solution unless it is attained through political-military means. In such an event a decision about a unilateral move will be called for, and then we will have to consider the risks and chances and whether to place the emphasis on bringing the IDF back home or security for the Galilee. I would suggest that we refrain from raging this argument at present over the media, wait for the Lebanese reply, and see whether there is any political international intervention in order to continue the political process and deal with this issue of adopting a unilateral resolution if there is no chance for a political solution.

[Shlonsky] That being the case, what is the sense of the constant Israeli threat to the Lebanese to pass unilateral decisions? The Lebanese are following events in Israel and say to themselves: Hold on a minute, Israel itself cannot make up its mind and that means that it will remain deployed on the Al-'Awwali line.

[Rabin] I believe that fear of an Israeli unilateral move has prodded people in the Lebanese Government — particularly President al-Jumayyil — and international elements such as the United Nations and the United States to act. This fear encourages them to look for contacts and search for possibilities and, perhaps, even to exert pressure on the sides to go ahead with the political process because they realize that any unilateral move would be a problem in view of what is happening here.

[Shlonsky] Mr Rabin, I thank you very much.

Chernenko Sends New Year Greetings to Wilner

TA301431 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1420 GMT 30 Dec 84

["Announcement by RAKAH Spokesman" — ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 30 Dec (ITIM) — Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Konstantin Chernenko sent the following telegram to Knesset Member Me'ir Wilner: Dear Me'ir Wilner. Please receive my hearty greetings and best wishes for the new year — 1985.

Spadolini on Technological Cooperation, UNIFIL

TA311049 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 31 Dec 84 p 2

[Report by Amir Rosenblitt]

[Text] "Israel and Italy will tighten their technological cooperation in the civilian and military spheres," Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini said yesterday in a special interview with *DAVAR* after he inaugurated a plot in the Yattir forest, donated in his honor by an organization of Jewish students in Italy. In the course of the conversation, Spadolini disclosed that during his visit to Israel it was decided to reestablish the tradition of the reciprocal visits of the Israeli and Italian chiefs of staff,

long terminated. He claims that he invited his counterpart, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, for a return visit to Italy. Rabin accepted the invitation, but no date has been set yet.

Referring to bilateral cooperation, the Italian defense minister said: "The relations between Israel and Italy are currently manifest through mutual trade, particularly of military goods. Thus far, the balance has been in Israel's favor, on a 4 to 1 ratio. I hope that Italy's sales to Israel will now increase, but for the moment we make the best of the very high technological level Israel has in the defense area. [no closing quote mark as published]

In reply to a question on whether he thought the UNIFIL units would constitute an effective buffer to ward off attacks against Israel as part of an Israeli-Lebanese arrangement, Spadolini said: "It was not my suggestion that UNIFIL be stationed in the buffer zone. Israel is the one to believe in such an arrangement and it is Israel which is demanding a UNIFIL deployment in the region."

Ends Visit

AU310954 Rome ANSA in English 0809 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] (ANSA) Beersheva, December 31 — On his final day in Israel, Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini Sunday took part in a ceremony in the Negev Desert in which a wood planted by the National Jewish Fund was given his name.

Spadolini said he felt particularly proud as "an old professor" to have been honored in this way and wished to take advantage of the occasion to renew his feelings of "gratitude and affection" toward Italian Jews who live in Italy and in Israel.

At the end of the ceremony, he made a brief visit to the ancient fortress of Massada on the Black Sea, a symbol of Jewish resistance. It was there in 72 A.D. that 900 Jewish zealots, after a lengthy seige by the Romans, preferred to commit mass suicide rather than capitulate and be sold into slavery.

Later in the day, Spadolini also visited the modern university in Beersheba, meeting with academicians there.

Prior to departing for Rome, he met with his Israeli counterpart Yitzhak Rabin once again to exchange views on cooperation prospects between the two countries and again renewed his invitation to Rabin to pay a visit to Italy.

In an interview published Sunday by the *MA'ARIV* daily, Spadolini made a first assessment of his visit to Israel, underscoring Italy's contribution to peace in the Mediterranean, in the Sinai and in Lebanon.

Italy considers essential the development of cooperation and friendship ties with Israel, he said, because the two countries have in common the desire for peace and stability in the Middle East.

The Italian defense chief added that stability in the Mediterranean for Italians means stability in the Middle East.

Security Forces Arrest MK Kahane in Hebron 30 Dec

TA302020 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Meir Kahane was arrested today by security forces in Hebron when he tried to visit the Makhpelah Cave to celebrate the death of Fahd al-Qawasimi. MK Kahane refused to stop at the Al-Duhayshah roadblock, broke through the roadblock, and reached Hebron. There he was asked to get out of his car and accompany the regional commander.

After he refused, and all pleas went unheeded, the security forces broke into his car and brought him to the police. Military sources emphasize that this incident posed a serious threat to public order and that Meir Kahane refused to respond to any of the requests put to him.

2 IDF Soldiers Wounded in Lebanon 30 Dec

TA300848 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0842 GMT 30 Dec 84

["Announcement by the IDF Spokesman" — ITIM headline]

[Text] [no date or place-name as received] Two IDF soldiers were wounded this morning in the area of Al-Saksakiyah in southern Lebanon when light arms fire was aimed at an IDF convoy. The casualties were evacuated to the hospital and the IDF is searching the vicinity.

IDF Captures Terrorist Squad

TA310807 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] An IDF force captured an 8-man terrorist squad approximately 5 km north of Sidon. Our forces sustained no casualties. Late at night an IDF patrol identified several figures who were trying to escape. Fire was opened at the escapees and in the course of a pursuit and search eight terrorists were captured, two of them wounded. Weapons and arms were found in the captured terrorists' possession.

Reportage on Death of PLO's Fahd al-Qawasimi

Shock Expressed Over Assassination

TA291835 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] There is shock in the territories over Fahd al-Qawasimi's assassination. Rashad al-Shawwa of Gaza told our correspondent Arye Gus that he was shocked by the murder and expressed the hope that the Palestinians will realize that political assassinations would not help them out of their crisis.

In Hebron, Al-Qawasimi's hometown, a delegation is getting ready to leave for Amman to attend the funeral. The delegation includes Mustafa 'Abd al-Nabi al-Natshah, who was Al-Qawasimi's deputy when the former was mayor of Hebron and later became the acting mayor. An order banning Al-Natshah from leaving the territories was issued at the time, but the Israeli

authorities now say that his current request will be considered on its own merit. Others will apparently also be allowed to attend the funeral in Amman.

Al-Shawwa, Frayj on Assassination

TA300648 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Gaza's [former] mayor, Rashad al-Shawwa, said he is stunned by the Al-Qawasimi killing [in Amman on 29 December]. He hopes the Palestinians will understand that political assassination won't end the Palestinian crisis.

One of Al-Qawasimi's close personal friends was Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj. He spoke to reporter Jerry Cheslow:

[Begin recording] [Frayj] Well, I know Al-Qawasimi very well, and I can say he was really ... [Frayj changes thought] He believed in the principle of peaceful coexistence and a political solution, and he was appointed in charge of the affairs in the West Bank and Gaza — which is a very important job. So his assassination really is going to help us. [sentence as heard]

[Cheslow] Again and again we see Palestinian politics settled down the barrel of a gun.

[Frayj] This is political cowardice, because we have been suffering every now and then from political assassinations. Last year we lost Dr al-Sartawi. Today we lost Al-Qawasimi, and we lost many brilliant Palestinian leaders through the past years. I hope the way could be found where such assassinations will be stopped. We're really trying to bring him back to Hebron to be buried.

[Cheslow] The Israeli authorities still consider Al-Qawasimi an enemy.

[Frayj] Well, he is dead, but he is the son of Hebron, and has every right to be buried in his hometown. I hope the prime minister, Mr Peres, will be magnanimous in granting permission in this hour of our sorrow. [end recording]

West Bank Reaction

TA300756 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Report by "Judaea and Samaria" correspondent Arye Gus — recorded]

[Excerpts] Former Nabulus Mayor Bassam al-Shak'ah could not keep his emotions in check yesterday when I called him: It is all because of the Israelis and your conquest. He then broke into a string of curses and hung up on me. This reaction could be the most representative to the murder of Fahd al-Qawasimi, whose death has shocked the West Bank.

Many refused to believe the news and impatiently waited for an official announcement from Jordan. Then they began to flock to the victim's home, a Hebron hotel, as a condolence gesture.

Al-Qawasimi was the highest-ranking resident of the territories in the PLO, and this was a source of pride and tightened relations between the PLO and the inhabitants of the region. They would point to him in trying to prove the moderation in the organization's positions. Thus, this is the spirit of the condolence statements issued by figures from the territories, who note that Al-Qawasimi's death is a severe blow to the moderate camp.

His former deputy, Mustafa 'Abd al-Nabi al-Natshah, appointed mayor after Al-Qawasimi's deportation, said: This is a base murder and we condemn all politically motivated murders.

Al-Qawasimi's assassins actually wanted to harm the Palestinian revolution, people in the territories claim. Some accused Israel of joining the enemies of the Palestinians. However, the general view is that Al-Qawasimi was assassinated by the Syrians or mercenaries hired by them.

AL-MITHAQ, which supports 'Arafat's opponents and Syria, warns against such hasty conclusions, and warns against a civil war both inside the territories and outside them.

Former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa said this morning, in the same vein: It is high time the Palestinians realize that killing each other will not extricate them from the crisis.

Al-Qawasimi's family wants to bury him in Hebron, but Israel will probably not let them do so, so as to prevent the creation of a site for pilgrimage. Israel will permit his relatives, as well as a delegation from Hebron, to depart for the funeral, but will most likely not allow public figures from the territories to go to Amman, in order not to give Yasir 'Arafat the opportunity to make political gains from the murder.

Israeli Arabs Issue Announcements

TA301104 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1019 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Arab public figures from the Galilee and the Triangle have published obituaries in the newspapers on the death of former Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimi. Our correspondent notes that this is the first time the Arab sector has come out with such announcements.

Nazareth Mayor Tawfiq Zayyad called Fahd al-Qawasimi his brother and comrade-in-arms.

Hebron Funeral Supported

TA301136 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Knesset Members Victor Shem-Tov of MAPAM and 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah [Alignment] both called this morning on the government to allow Al-Qawasimi's funeral to be held in Hebron. Shem-Tov told Qol Yisra'el [Voice of Israel] that Israel should behave with generosity to its enemies. Darawshah contacted the prime minister's office and the defense minister's bureau on the issue this morning.

Weizman Favors Hebron Burial

TA310733 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Minister 'Ezer Weizman thinks that the Al-Qawasimi family should be permitted to bury its dead in Hebron and our political correspondent has learned that Weizman tried to persuade the prime minister to accept this view.

When serving as defense minister, 'Ezer Weizman had ordered Al-Qawasimi's deportation from the West Bank. He now thinks that Israel will not be harmed if it grants the family's human request.

Family To Attend Funeral

TA302014 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Fahd al-Qawasimi's family and other dignitaries from the territories will be allowed to travel to Amman to participate in the funeral which will be held tomorrow.

The Cabinet today decided to permit interested residents of the territories to visit Jordan for this purpose.

Shamir Warns King Husayn

TA302118 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has called on Jordan's King Husayn to draw conclusions from the assassination of Fahd al-Qawasimi and to choose the way of peace with Israel. The murder, Shamir said, should be a warning to King Husayn that by drawing closer to terrorist organizations he is taking chances which may have repercussions on his peaceful and secure Kingdon. The foreign minister spoke this evening with Likud activists in Bat Yam, and his remarks were reported by our correspondent Meron Tzur.

Hebron Strike Marks Mourning

TA310932 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0926 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Fahd al-Qawasimi's funeral cortege is to begin within the next hour in Amman.

There is a general commercial strike in Hebron to mark the mourning for Al-Qawasimi's death and the school students dispersed to their homes earlier than normal.

Civilian Administration sources have told our correspondent Gil Ronen that there is no intention of intervening or stopping the commercial strike or the spontaneous mourning rallies in Hebron.

Those sources pointed out that as long as this is a question of sincere expressions of mourning and not rallies of a nationalist nature, there is no reason to intervene.

AL-QUDS on Assassination

JN300759 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 30 Dec 84

[From the press review]

[Text] *AL-QUDS* says: The Palestinian issue has always been committed to a sacred principle — rejection of political assassination and preventing Palestinian blood from being shed by Palestinian hands. Resorting to murder as a means of political action is a bad omen and an indication that the issue has reached a desperate stage.

The paper adds: Several innocent Palestinians have been killed by their fellow citizens. Their crime is that they had opposite views and they disagreed with the course and political opinions of their killers. The latest victim is Fahd al-Qawasimi, who was expelled from the country in 1980 and who was elected PNC member during the Council's 17th session.

AL-QUDS concludes: The treacherous hands that killed Al-Qawasimi must not be allowed to roam free and the perpetrators must receive punishment. Moreover, the criminal course of those who stand behind the killers must be eliminated from the Arab political scene.

Assassination Believed 'Syrian Initiative'

TA301017 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Dec 84 pp 1, 10

[Report by Eytan Haber and Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpt] Security personnel in Israel believe that the assassination of Fahd al-Qawasimi in Amman yesterday afternoon was a Syrian initiative.

It is the Israeli sources' assumption that the murder of the man who had been the mayor of Hebron and was considered to be one of the leaders of the PLO's "moderate wing" was intended to be a double signal: to King Husayn and to Yasir 'Arafat. The Syrians want to warn Husayn that as long as he is connected with 'Arafat, bloodbaths can be expected in Jordan. The Syrians want to warn 'Arafat to stop tightening his ties with Jordan.

AL-ANBA' on Syrian Role

JN300808 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 30 Dec 84

[From the press review]

[Text] On the assassination of Al-Qawasimi, *AL-ANBA'* says: This incident is absolute proof of Syria's intention to foil attempts to achieve Jordanian-Palestinian rapprochement and hamper any political move that King Husayn of Jordan might embark upon with the support of the Palestinians.

AL-ANBA' expresses the belief that it is truly regrettable that some Arab sides continue to liquidate political opponents instead of resorting to dialogue and persuasion. It is also regrettable that

extremist elements continue to liquidate figures who show a certain amount of moderation and pursue a national and logical course after clearly realizing that the political solution is the ideal way to end the Palestinian people's tragedy.

AL-ANBA' concludes its editorial by saying: Perhaps King Husayn's announcement that this incident will not stop him from continuing to seek a political solution to the Palestinian issue is a clear indication to extremist elements in the Arab world that Al-Qawasimi's assassination will not achieve its objective of obstructing the peace process.

HA'ARETZ on Sending of U.S. Envoy to Syria

TA300739 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
30 Dec 84 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Dan Margalit]

[Excerpt] If U.S. President Ronald Reagan decides to send a personal envoy on his behalf to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, the chances for a political-military arrangement in Lebanon will increase, senior Jerusalem political sources assessed at the end of the week.

These sources point out that President al-Asad evaded any meetings with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and they believe he wants to talk with a special envoy from the President, bringing with him a specific guarantee by the U.S. Administration for U.S. involvement in an arrangement in Lebanon. Within the next few days the United States is to decide whether to send a figure of political importance to the area, because it is believed that there is no longer any point in sending a State Department official on another round of talks. Jerusalem is awaiting President Reagan's decision on the resumption of the Al-Naqurah talks at the end of the Christmas recess.

It is believed that Syria would prefer an Israeli withdrawal in accordance with an arrangement with it to a unilateral withdrawal and that the shortest possible round of talks by a senior envoy (speculation centers on: former Assistant Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger or Joseph Sisco) would produce positive results. Observers point to the increasing fear of a bloodbath among the sects in Lebanon if Israel withdraws from sensitive areas without UNIFIL replacing IDF soldiers.

MAURITANIA

New Foreign Affairs, Justice Ministers Appointed

AB300735 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] A decree issued on 29 December 1984 announces the following appointments: Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Ould Minnih has been appointed minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Mahfoud Ould Lemrabott has been appointed minister of justice and Islamic affairs.

More on Foreign Minister

PA291600 Paris AFP in English 1558 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Nouakchott, Dec 29 (AFP) — Lieutenant-Colonel Ahmed Ould Minnih, minister of justice in Mauritania's two-week old government, has been named foreign minister, replacing Sheikh Sidi Ahmed Ould Babamine, the state-controlled radio announced today.

Lt Col Minnih, who held the foreign affairs portfolio in the government which was toppled in a bloodless coup December 12, will be replaced as justice minister by Mahfoud Ould Lemrabott, formerly presidential advisor on Islamic affairs, radio Nouakchott said.

The radio gave no indication of what posts if any Major Babamine would be given.

LIBYA

Mubarak Mediation Call Reveals Egypt as 'Enemy'

LD291450 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Egyptian regime has expressed readiness to mediate between the Zionist enemy and the other Arab countries to solve the Palestine and other Middle East problems. In an interview with a BBC correspondent, the prime minister of the Egyptian regime, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, stated that Egypt can create favorable conditions that would make it possible for the Zionist enemy and the Arabs to reach an agreement on what he called a peaceful settlement covering the whole area.

This is a new tune which unmasks the other face of the Husni Mubarak regime and proves flagrantly that this regime has passed the American test with flying colors and has become qualified to carry out other steps more detrimental to the Arab nation, its future, and destiny. It has volunteered to secure the demands of the Zionist enemy, as though Egypt has secured all its demands and has overcome all problems facing it.

The announcement by the Husni Mubarak regime of its mediation between the enemy and the Arab nation means that this regime has become a side hostile to the Arab nation. Hence we state that from now on we consider that this puppet regime has shown all its cards and we have to deal with it in the same manner as we deal with the enemy, for the regime has chosen by itself to become a hostile tool after having surrendered everything.

The new role of the Husni Mubarak regime affirms what we had previously declared: that it is a regime employed to guard the enemy and thus enable it to devote itself to destroying Arabs everywhere.

Those who place bets on the return of this regime to the Arab fold must understand this fact. The Egyptian regime has embarked on the course of no return and has totally aligned itself with the Zionist enemy and American imperialism and has taken its place in the trench which is opposed to our nation, nationalism, and unity.

SUDAN

President Numayri Receives U.S. Ambassador

JN291827 Khartoum SUNA in English 1745 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Khartoum, Rabie Thani 6, Dec 29 (SUNA) — President Numayri today received U.S. Ambassador to Khartoum Hume Alexander Horan.

After the meeting, Mr. Horan said he had discussed with President Numayri effects of drought in east and west of Sudan. He added that he had acquainted the president with assistance delivered by the United States to Sudan and the increase of aid expected to be presented next year.

He said that the increase would be about 650 thousand tons of cereals and food. He expressed hope that this aid would play an important role in supplying the drought-stricken people.

The ambassador went on to say that he told President Numayri about the U.S. President Ronald Reagan's directive to dispatch a number of emergency flights to Kassala to help the Sudanese authorities there in dealing with the continuous influx of refugees from Ethiopia into Sudan. [Words indistinct] allocated for combating drought and desertification in Sudan which extended by the "USAID" Horan said it reach 50 million dollars and will amount to 250 millions against 219 last year.

Numayri Arrives in Southern Region 31 Dec

JN311131 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Waw, 31 Dec (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri and his delegation arrived in the city of Waw in the southern region at 0930 today on a brief visit to the Bahr al-Ghazal region, during which he will participate in the citizens' celebrations of the glorious independence day.

SSU Committee on Independence Anniversary

JN302045 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Dec (SUNA) — The Sudanese Socialist Union[SSU] Regular Forces' Committee has appealed to those who have carried weapons to resort to reason and respond to the call of the nation's leader who is concerned about Sudan's stability, security, and unity.

In a statement on the anniversary of the country's independence, the committee said that President Numayri has been patient out of his unlimited love for Sudan and its people and out of his concern for the stability of Sudan and all its neighbors who were forced to flee to a better situation due to the circumstances of war, hunger, and death.

The committee asserted that the Regular Forces are determined to achieve Sudan's prosperity regardless of the dwarfs' attempts and regardless of plots and conspiracies.

The Regular Forces' Committee stressed that when the Regular Forces and the People's Armed Forces share their delight with the people on the anniversary of the glorious independence, they express the significance of the people's cohesion.

In its statement, the committee greeted the first generation's efforts in achieving independence. It pointed out that the May Revolution's celebrations of independence confirm that it is the revolution that gave independence its original meaning and noble significance.

Numayri Appoints SSU Members

JN301055 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1029 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Dec (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the Sudanese Socialist Union [SSU], issued a decree yesterday appointing retired General Siddiq Ahmad Hasan al-Banna, Khalid 'Abd al-Majid Ahmad, and Kamal 'Umar al-Amin members of the SSU Central Command and members of the Central Command Executive Bureau.

His Excellency issued a decree restoring SSU membership to 'Abbas al-Khadir al-Husayn.

Armed Forces Attack 'Outlaws' in Southern Region

JN301027 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Dec (SUNA) — An authoratative source in the general command of the People's Armed Forces announced here today that the Armed Forces attacked a camp belonging to outlaws on Friday in the Bentiu area in the southern region, inflicting the following losses on them: 83 outlaws were killed and an undetermined number wounded; a quantity of arms was seized including 10 automatic rifles of various manufacture, 1 machine gun, 2 rocket launchers, explosives, ammunition, and various military equipment, as well as 2 communications receivers.

The source added that three soldiers from the People's Armed Forces were martyred and five others who were wounded were transferred to the hospital. The operations are continuing to completely eradicate the outlaws in the area.

25 'Outlaws' Killed

JN311240 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Dec (SUNA) — The General Command of the People's Armed Forces announced here today that a group of outlaws attacked the forces stationed in the (Al-Bong) station in the (Al-Maban) area close to the Ethiopian borders on Saturday.

It added that the forces stationed there managed to repulse the attack that was carried out by about 500 outlaws, killing 25, wounding a large number, and seizing Kalashnikov rifles, mortar and RPG ammunition, and Soviet-made (Marinov) explosives.

Two of our forces were martyred, one of whom died after evacuation to the hospital. The statement added that the Armed Forces there are now in full control of this sector.

SPLA Radio Reportage on Rebel Combat Operations

Government Statement Called 'Lies'

LD281425 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] A statement from the Sudanese military spokesman broadcast by Radio Omdurman last night admitted the Christmas Day attack by the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces on government troops on the Bor-Juba road. The statement claims that the government Army had encountered a large number of what it called rebels of whom 600 were killed. It further claimed that the SPLA inflicted only minimal casualties on the government soldiers.

Commenting on this, the spokesman for the SPLA said: The lies in the statement will only help the Sudanese people to understand the weak position the government is in at the moment because it is still living in the world of imagination and illusion at a time when the SPLA forces are scoring victory after victory against the enemy forces. Those who dispute our victory can go to the scene of the attack and see for themselves what happened or wait to hear statements from the three captured enemy soldiers, he concluded.

Further on Christmas Clash

EA281622 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Excerpts] More details of the ambush of Christmas Day on the Juba-Bor road have reached Radio SPLA. Two enemy companies of paratroopers left Khartoum for Juba under the command of a LieutenantColonel Umar A. Majid. When the paratroopers arrived in Juba, Lt Col Umar A. Majid remained in Juba with the 141st Company and the 142d Company left for Bor under

the command of Major 'Abd al-Fattah 'Abd al-Qadir. This was the company that was ambushed, of whom 117 were killed and the remnants dispersed.

The commanding officer, Major 'Abd al-Qadir, and two others are reported by the three captives under the SPLA protection to have escaped to the east of Gemmeiza and their fate is not known. Thirty of the remnants have reached Dunqulah where they sent a message to Juba asking for a vehicle to transport them to Juba. Their request was turned down by the authorities in Juba. Either the authorities are anticipating another ambush by the SPLA around Juba or they do not want the [words indistinct] to kill the troops.

The fighting took place near Gemmeiza, not in Feriak as claimed by Radio Omdurman last night, and took only 1 hour from three to four pm. No more fighting is going on now. The fighting that took place in the Feriak-Malek area specifically around Malwal involved a reinforcement from Bor garrison sent the following day, which the SPLA forces dispersed and returned to Bor. In the ambush one Magirus truck and an APC were destroyed.

In another development the registration numbers of the trucks and APC have reached Radio SPLA.

It is to be recalled that on the 26th, SPLA units in the ambush area captured one paratrooper and he is Corporal Alam Ahmad Husayn, a signalist. His military number is 294360 and he is from Damazin in eastern Sudan. All the four signal sets captured are in good working condition and are now being used by the SPLA forces.

Rebel Officer Issues Message

EA301649 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Important statement: I am Lieutenant Colonel Francis Ngor (Machek), commander of the Hadid Battalion of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] and now commander in the town of (Maban). Here we had a fight with Numayri's Army and seized from them the town of (Maban). I tell the townspeople in (Maban), all of them, to live without fear. The SPLA is bringing you benefits, don't be afraid of it. I want you to bring to us some of the soldiers of Numayri [words indistinct]. Townspeople of (Maban), bring us these people, don't hold them. (?They may be good). We have no problem with them if they surrender. Townspeople of (Maban), we have brought you peace. The commander in chief of the SPLA sends greetings to every one of you.

Rebels Claim Town Capture

EA301426 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Excerpt] We have received the following message from a Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] — Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] spokesman: On 29 December 1984, SPLA forces captured and occupied (Maban) in northern Upper Nile administrative area. The capture and occupation of (Maban) was carried out by SPLA forces of Habid Battalion under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Francis Ngor (Makich). The occupation of (Maban), the headquarters of (Maban) rural council, followed a fierce fight between the government forces and the SPLA forces, which lasted 2 days. At the end of the fighting the SPLA forces had killed 73 enemy troops. The rest of the government soldiers ran into the forest with an undetermined number of their wounded.

On the other hand the commander in chief of the SPLA, Colonel John Garang de Mabior, has congratulated the commander, Lt Col Francis Ngor (Makich), officers, NCO's and all the revolutionary fighters of Hadid Battalion for their brilliant performance in fighting and the capture of (Maban). In his message he says: Thousands of congratulations to you, your officers, NCO's, and men for the great victory in (Maban) wiping out the third company of the 120th batallion of the 13th Brigade of the enemy Army. Your great victory in northern Upper Nile follows only a few days after the victory of the Locust Battalion in Gemmeiza in Equatoria. This clearly proves that SPLA is everywhere and confident that our battalion will achieve further victories.

The SPLA forces have captured 61 Kalashnikov rifles from the enemy and 32 Lee Enfield rifles, popularly known in Sudan as Abu Asharah. The SPLA casualties are 15 heroes killed in action and 21 heroes wounded in action.

The SPLA forces of Hadid Battalion are in full control of the town and its commander, Lt Col Francis Ngor (Makich), has appealed to the local population to be calm and continue with their normal day to day life. The appeal in details will be broadcast in our today's Arabic program.

Rebels Claim Bentiu Victory

EA281558 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] SPLA forces in the Bentiu area under the command of Paulino (Bartia Wagak) conducted a successful ambush on an enemy patrol yesterday outside Bentiu Town. The enemy suffered 27 killed and undetermined numbers wounded as they withdrew back into the safety of Bentiu Town. The SPLA lost one hero killed in action and five wounded.

5 Government Soldiers Killed

EA291707 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] In a skirmish with government soldiers outside Olam post in Upper Nile Administrative Area yesterday, an SPLA camouflage unit of five soldiers captured five 60-mm shells, killed five enemy soldiers, and wounded three others. There were no casualties on the SPLA side. However, the government troops killed an old man and burnt his hut.

Government Paratroopers Said Defecting

EA291724 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Many paratroopers of Sudan's 141st Paratrooper Battalion, which is currently stationed in Juba, are defecting to the SPLA. This was said by Corporal (James Agoth Kwal) who defected and joined the SPLA. He was in the 2d Company of the 5th Battalion, the 14th Brigade at Ad-Damazin. His military number is 642229 and his village is Mayen (Abon) in Gogrial District.

Opposition Leader Rejects Negotiations with Numayri

EA291613 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] The leader of the SPLA-SPLM [Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army-Sudanese Peoples Liberation Movement], Colonel Dr John Garang, reaffirmed today that the talk about negotiations with Numayri is baseless because the war will end when all the objectives contained in the movements manifesto are achieved. He said this in a talk to a number of SPLA young officers who paid a courtesy call at his operational headquarters today.

Elaborating on the promises of the SPLA-SPLM, Col Dr John Garang said it is useless that somebody or a class of citizens should give themselves the role of distributing jobs and political rights to this or that citizen. We are all Sudanese and Sudan belongs to all of us. He added that Numayri's offer of the post of vice-president of the Sudan to John Garang and also as an overseer of the economic development in the south makes no sense. The war did not start in order to make him vice-president. If that was the case there would be no war now because Joseph Lagu who is a southerner is vice-president. We want the young officers to be alert about all the various schemes being used by the enemy, both local and international, to destroy the movement.

Speaking on behalf of the officers — most of them former teachers and students — one of the officers pledged to defend both the leadership and the revolution now and after the total liberation of the Sudanese people is accomplished.

TUNISIA

Reportage on Talks With Libyan Delegation

Mzali Receives Al-Turayki

LD282000 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] Tunis 28 Dec (JANA) — Brother Mohamed Mzali, the Tunisian prime minister, this afternoon received Brother 'Ali al-Turayki, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, and Brother Musa Ahmad Furaywah, secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and Light Industry. During the meeting, which was attended by Brother Beji Caid Essebsi, the Tunisian foreign minister, the development of bilateral relations was discussed and the results of the Libyan-Tunisian follow-up committee were reviewed.

The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison stated, after the meeting, that new aspects of joint projects had been discussed. The Arab Libyan-Tunisian Bank will play a major role in realizing them.

He stressed that the success of these meetings and the positive results that have been achieved drew their strength from the will of the two fraternal peoples and their determination to attain unity between them, as well as the unity of the Arab nation.

Joint Committee Meeting Begins

LD292323 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] The meetings of the higher joint committee comprising the General Popular Committee in the Jamahiriyah and the Tunisian Council of Ministers began this evening in the Tunisian capital.

Muhammad al-Zarruq Rajab, secretary of the General Popular Committee, in a speech at the opening of the committee's work, affirmed the inevitability of cooperation between the two fraternal countries and the need to strengthen cooperation in implementing the agreement that had been reached between the Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, and President Habib Bourguiba in June 1982.

The Brother Muhammad al-Zarruq in his speech explained the importance of deepening cooperation between the two countries in various fields for the sake of realizing the economic integration of the Arab people in the Jamahiriyah and Tunisia and bringing closer the emergence of the all-embracing Arab unity.

The secretary of the General Popular Committee noted that this meeting taking place in Tunisia forms part of the work of the joint higher Libyan Arab-Tunisian committee in implementing the agreement between the brother leader of the revolution and President Habib Bourguiba and he explained that the fields of joint cooperation have expanded and now embrace various fields.

Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali also delivered a speech. He welcomed the secretary and members of the General Popular Committee and praised the positive results which had been realized during the previous meeting. Brother Mohamed Mzali, in his speech opening the meetings of this committee, said that the two countries today are reaping the fruits of their cooperation. Their aspirations to progress and advancement have been realized.

The Tunisian prime minister added that today's meeting is a new step which will be blessed with rich results and will lead to the implementation of positive work benefiting the two fraternal countries.

Bourguiba Receives Libyan Official

LD301406 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] This morning President Habib Bourguiba conferred with Mohamed Mzali, the prime minister and minister of the interior, who briefed the president on the contents of the positive talks held yesterday between the Tunisian and the Libyan delegations within the framework of the joint higher committee's work.

Mohamed Mzali said that the president was satisfied with the Tunisian-Libyan talks and their satisfactory outcome.

This morning President Habib Bourguiba received at his office at the Republican Palace in Carthage Muhammad al-Zarruq Rajab, general secretary of the General People's Congress in the Libyan Jamahiriyah and head of the Libyan delegation to the joint higher committee which met in Tunis yesterday. This audience was attended by the prime minister and minister of the interior, Mohamed Mzali, who is also head of the Tunisian delegation to this meeting. It was also attended by Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi; Minister of National Economy Rachid Sfar; Minister of Planning Ismail Khalil; and Muhammad Jenifane, the Tunisian commissioner general in Libya. On the Libyan side it was attended by Dr 'Ali al-Salam al-Turayki, secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison; Miftah Ku'aybah, secretary of the General People's Committee for justice, and by Dr 'Abd al-Rahman al-Harari, the Jamahiriyah commissioner general in Tunisia.

The president welcomed members of the Libyan delegation in Tunisia and addressed those present with the following speech: I would like to express my pleasure and happiness at the good results you have achieved, and this is bound to bring the brothers closer together and facilitate the building of the greater Arab Maghreb which includes Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania.

Following this audience, Muhammad al-Zarruq Rajab made a statement in which he expressed pleasure of having the honor of meeting President Habib Bourguiba and said: We have conveyed to the president the greetings of his brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and the greetings of the Libyan people, and we listened to the president's directives with regard to the strengthening of cooperation between the two peoples and the exerting of greater efforts for the realization of their interests. Muhammad al-Zarruq Rajab said that the Libyan and the Tunisian peoples are always marching toward the common destiny and that we are always called upon to hold direct contacts in order to surmount the problems and the attempts of intrigues between the two fraternal peoples. In conclusion he expressed his gratitude and that of the accompanying delegation for the valuable advice recommended by the president and his directives.

Agreements Signed Following Talks

LD301536 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] The Joint Libyan Arab-Tunisian Higher Committee concluded its meetings this morning in Tunis. A number of agreements were signed covering the fields of cooperation, trade exchange, customs, security cooperation, youth, and sports.

Ahmad 'Uqaylah, secretary of the General People's Committee for Sports in the Jamahiriyah, and Mohamed Kraiem, the Tunisian minister of youth and sport, signed an agreement covering the implementation program for cooperation in the field of youth and sport.

Musa Abu Furaywah, secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and Light Industries, and Salah ben Mbarka, the Tunisian minister of finance, signed an agreement covering trade exchange and customs. The agreement provides for totally exempting national products of custom duties. The agreement on the trade exchange covers basic commodities in the two countries for a period of 3 years commencing in 1985.

Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, secretary of the Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, and Beji Caid Essebsi, the Tunisian foreign minister, signed the minutes of the meeting of the preparatory committee which covers cooperation in all fields.

Miftah Ku'aybah, secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice, and 'Amir Ghdirah, secretary of state at the Ministry of the Interior in Tunisia, signed an agreement covering the fields of security cooperation between the two countries.

Communique on Committee Meeting

LD302323 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Following the second meeting of the Higher Joint Libyan-Tunisian Committee in Tunis today, a joint communique was issued, the text of which is as follows:

Within the framework of the historical ties between the Arab people in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah Socialist Republic [SPLAJ] and the Tunisian Republic, in strengthening the fraternal relations between brothers, in implementation of the agreement signed during the visit of the brother leader of the revolution to Tunisia in February 1982, in accordance with what was agreed during the first meeting of the higher joint committee held in Tripoli in July 1983, out of the desire of the two countries to achieve economic integration of the Arab people in Libya and Tunisia within the framework of building the Greater Arab Maghreb, and for the sake of attaining the all-embracing Arab unity, the second meeting of the higher joint committee was held in Tunis, 29 December 1984, and was chaired by Brother Muhammad al-Zarruq Rajab, secretary of the General People's Congress of the SPLAJ, and Brother Mohamed Mzali, the Tunisian prime minister and minister of interior. At this meeting agreement was reached on the following:

1. The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the positive steps achieved in planning and development. They stress the importance of continued cooperation between the institutions concerned in the two countries.

2. In trade, the two sides recorded their satisfaction with the positive development of trade between them. They affirmed the importance of a balanced development of this trade.

3. The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the practical steps taken in bilateral cooperation following the emergence of the Arab Tunisian-Libyan bank for development and commerce and approval of the industrial projects in whose implementation the bank will assume a major role.

4. The two sides affirm the importance of cooperation in agriculture and its role in realizing the economic integration and security of food supplies of the two countries. They would like to see that meetings between the experts in both countries be intensified to draw up joint programs.

5. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the positive steps that were taken and the continued cooperation in telecommunications and postal services and air, land, and sea transport. They affirm the importance of strengthening and developing cooperation in this sphere for the sake of the joint benefit to the brothers in the two countries.

6. In education, culture, information, youth, and sports affairs, the two sides affirm the continuation of efforts to achieve the aim of unifying the academic curriculum and textbooks, to encourage contacts between universities and institutes, and to hold joint educational forums in the two countries. They affirm the need to work for developing cooperation between the various information media organs.

The two sides affirm the importance of approving all the programs which contribute to the realization of such meetings.

7. Proceeding from the principle of economic and social integration of the two countries and realizing the importance of the human element in the achievement of this integration, the two sides affirm their support for attaining this aim within the framework of priority being given to the use of the Tunisian work force in the Jamahiriyah in accordance with the requirements and cooperation and for the sake of benefiting from the experiences and the programs in vocational training.

8. The two sides affirm the need to intensify contacts and consultations at various levels for the purpose of discussing and studying the political developments in the greater Arab homeland and the Islamic world, the African Continent, and the Mediterranean basin in an effort to coordinate the stands of the two countries and to fulfill the aspiration of the brothers in achieving integration within the framework of the Greater Arab Maghreb, whose realization is considered an inevitable necessity for the attainment of the all-embracing Arab unity.

The two sides have agreed to hold the third meeting of the higher joint committee in October 1985 in the SPLAJ.

The Libyan Arab delegation expressed deep gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality during its stay in the fraternal Tunisian Republic.

SWAPO's Nujoma Arrives on Visit, Comments

LD281519 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 dec 84

[Excerpt]Sam Nujoma, SWAPO president, arrived this morning in Tunisia for a visit lasting several days. He said that his visit to Tunisia proves the high esteem and gratitude that the people of Namibia and SWAPO have for the great struggler, President Habib Bourguiba, pioneer of the struggle for the liberation of Africa, and for Tunisia's steady support for Namibia's national struggle for liberation and independence.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Praises Soviet Drought Assistance

EA302006 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, today said the Soviet comrades had filled us with admiration and pride for their friendship and support for revolutionary Ethiopia according to the principles of proletarian internationalism. That is what our revolutionary leader said in an address to aid and medical personnel after inspecting the transport, food, and medical aid sent by the USSR to help our drought-hit compatriots and after hearing a briefing on the administration of aid.

Having gained an understanding of our country's drought problems, the USSR has for the past few months been deploying many vehicles, helicopters, and aircraft in areas hard hit by drought to transport food and other aid and to transport our compatriots to resettlement areas.

Yesterday, our comrade revolutionary leader visited the professional staff of the mobile hospital who have come to provide such aid. During his visit, the comrade secretary general inspected the 1,000 tons of rice sent by the USSR for distribution to our needy compatriots.

Yesterday, the Soviet ambassador to Ethiopia, Comrade Konstantin Fomichenko, Comrade (Mikhail Taykanov), coordinator general of the Soviet aid team, and heads of teams gave briefings on the administration of aid.

All the comrades working in the transport and health sectors declared their readiness to make every sacrifice. It is reported that all costs relating to the mobile garages, hospital, and other equipment belonging to the aid service visited by Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam would be met by the Soviet Government. It is also reported in particular that the hospital is fully equipped and is staffed by experienced medical doctors, pharmacists, and nurses, who will give services ranging from first aid to surgery as required.

During his visit, our comrade revolutionary leader toured the living quarters of comrades working to provide drought aid.

In his address at the end of the visit, the comrade secretary general expressed gratitude on behalf of the WPE, the revolutionary government, and the broad masses of Ethiopia, and on his own behalf to the USSR, which has stood by the broad masses of Ethiopia through all their problems and which today has similarly rallied to our side when we encountered problems caused by natural disaster. Our comrade revolutionary leaders stressed in particular that by virtue of their presence and aid for our compatriots struggling against the oppression of nature, the Soviet medical team would be able to save the lives of most of our compatriots. He also wished them success in their work.

Present during the visit were Comrades Fiseha Desta, WPE Central Committee Politburo member and secretary; Legese Asfaw, WPE Central Committee Politburo member and secretary; Shimeles Mazengia, WPE Central Committee Politburo member and secretary; Shewandagn Belete, WPE Central Committee Politburo alternate member and secretary; Yusuf Ahmed, WPE Central Committee member and minister of communications and transport; and other comrades.

SOMALIA

Elections Committee Members Announced

EA301802 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1400 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Challe Major General Hussein Kulmie Afrah, second vice president of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR], who is also the chairman of the Supreme National Assembly and local authorities elections committee, disclosed today the names of the members of the Central Elections Committee, whose responsibility it will be to count ballot papers, to give the numbers of those who voted yes and those who voted no, and to clarify the number of spoiled papers. The committee members, who were sworn in today, are: Challe Ahmad Hasan Shaykh, chairman; Challe Mahmud Muhammad Odey, vice chairman; Challe Abdullahi Muhammad Mah, adviser; Challe Musa Haji Hasan, adviser; Challe Abd al-Aziz Jama Farah, adviser; Challe Ikar (Bana Hadad), secretary; Challe Muhammad Haji Ali, enumerator; Challe Muhammad Abdi (Fay) Muhammad, enumerator; and Challe Said Karshe Robleh, enumerator.

The second vice president said the committee, whose headquarters will be at the president's office, will begin work on 1 January 1985 and continue until the results of the elections are known. Challe Kulmie said that the supreme elections preparatory committee [as heard] will also [words indistinct] the equipment to fulfill its various activities connected with the elections.

The Somali public will vote at 1,659 polling stations.

Challe Kulmie added that because tomorrow is election day, there will be no government or private work so that all eligible voters will have time to vote.

Challe Hussein Kulmie Afrah finally called on the regional heads, various elections committees, and the committees at polling stations to send in election results to the Central Elections Committee immediately after voting ends.

TANZANIA

Nyerere, Tutu Discuss Situation in South Africa

EA281900 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam: President Nyerere today stressed Tanzania's policy of support for the liberation movements in South Africa in their struggle against apartheid. Mwalimu underlined this policy in the course of his talks with the Nobel Peace Prize winner, Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, held at Mwalimu's house in Butiama.

The foreign minister, Ndugu Benjamin Mkapa, told journalists at Dar Es Salaam airport that, during the talks, which had centered on the liberation struggle in southern Africa, Mwalimu had also said that Tanzania did not discriminate against any human being and opposed the unjust Boer regime's apartheid policy.

Earlier, Bishop Tutu had told the journalists that he had had useful and friendly talks with President Nyerere and Ndugu Mkapa. He said he (?admired) Tanzania's unswerving policy of helping resident workers from South Africa as well as the freedom fighters present in the country.

Bishop Tutu also reiterated that a bloodbath would ensue in South Africa if the UN did not help in the confrontation with the present political system in that country. He also wondered why that unjust Boer regime was holding talks with free neighboring countries instead of talking directly with the freedom fighters inside and outside the country toward finding a solution.

Referring to his visit to the United States, Bishop Tutu said that President Reagan was opposed to sanctions on South Africa, claiming that such sanctions would hurt the African majority.

Bishop Tutu arrived in the country today for a 2-day visit.

UGANDA

Ministry Warns of 'Desperate' Bandits in Mubende

EA301939 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] A spokesman of the Ministry of Defense announced today that a group of bandits known to compose of their leaders have in recent days on account of intensified military operations in Luwero District moved to Mubende District. The people of Singo and Bugangazi Counties, particularly in the areas of (Rwelmuyati-Rwemuyaga), (Namadu), (Kiaye), and (Bigovwa-Nengenyi) are warned to be on the lookout.

The bandits are desperate for food and civilian clothing. They have hostages with them, including old men, women, and children. Anyone who is approached, or whose home is looted, or who comes across them, or in any way comes to know about them should report to the nearest Army detachment.

The Uganda National Liberation Army is pursuing the bandits.

The spokesman of the Ministry of Defense reaffirmed government policy regarding bandits who surrender. The policy is that any bandits who surrender will be welcomed, not molested and, will be given the necessary protection to allow for their rehabilitation in society.

The spokesman further stated that a large number of bandits have surrendered, and some of the leaders of the bandits have been captured and are helping the Army with the operations.

Opposition Force Denies Government Siege

AB281335 Paris AFP in English 1312 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] Nairobi, Dec 28 (AFP) -- The National Resistance Army (NRA), which is waging an armed struggle against the Government of Uganda's President Milton Obote, today denied that government troops had its forces surrounded in the "Luwero triangle".

Over Christmas Uganda Radio repeated a claim made in government leaflets dropped on Kampala on Christmas eve that the rebels were surrounded in their Luwero triangle stronghold northwest of the capital. The leaflets warned that those "bandits" that did not surrender would be treated "mercilessly". But in a statement released here today, the NRA described the assertion as "baseless and false", intended to raise the "low morale" of the government troops and their supporters "in the wake of mounting casualties" at the hands of the NRA.

"The NRA wishes to make it clear to the whole world that this is not the first time the Obote government has made such a baseless statement during its four-year war with the freedom fighters," the statement went on. "The Obote government has been losing many of its soldiers in recent months and had to put up such a show to hoodwink the world. It is well-known that the government has launched many offensives against the NRA but most of them, including the recent ones, have been futile."

The statement also described as a "paradox" the fact that the leaflets calling for the rebels in the Luwero triangle to surrender were in fact dropped on Kampala itself. It said that a helicopter on a similar mission a year ago was shot down over Luwero, killing the then Ugandan Army Chief of Staff David Oyite Ojok. (The death of the Army chief, seen as a major blow to the Obote government, was presented by the authorities as an accident.)

A source close to the NRA, which is led by former Ugandan Defence Minister Yoweri Museveni, today said that there was no evidence for the government's claims to have been effective in its fight against the rebels, despite military assistance from North Korea and Tanzania. "They have nothing to show for their offensives," the source said. The source put the number of North Koreans working as "advisers" with the Obote government forces at possibly 300, with a greater number of Tanzanians. He put the number of Ugandan troops engaged in the struggle at over 20,000, but declined to give a figure for the NRA's strength.

CAMEROON

Biya: Support 'Freedom Fighters' in South Africa

AB282024 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] President Paul Biya has called on all peace-loving nations of the world to support the freedom fighters in southern Africa in order to bring about independence in Namibia and majority rule in Azania [South Africa]. President Biya was speaking today on the occasion of the presentation of new year wishes to him by members of government, the Cameroon National Union Central Committee, the National Assembly, the Supreme Court, the Armed Forces High Command, the National Union of Cameroon Workers, services attached to the Presidency, and the diplomatic corps.

The head of state said Cameroon was fighting for a free Africa whose essential bulwarks include nonalignment, solidarity, and respect for the OAU charter. Speaking of 1985 as a year consecrated to the youth, the president said it should be one in which all nations of the world would adhere to the UN Charter to give hope to all people suffering from social, cultural, and economic injustices, including racial segregation. President Biya called for a new world economic order which would take into account the problems of developing countries suffering from poverty and other economic difficulties.

The President spoke of the recent Lome III Convention signed between the European Community and the African and Caribbean and Pacific states as an encouraging step toward a more fruitful North-South dialogue. To the diplomatic corps, the head of state expressed his sincere wish to work in collaboration with the diplomats in the fullfilment of their mission to Cameroon.

Earlier, the dean of the diplomatic corps, Ivory Coast's ambassador, Antoine Conan Koffi, on behalf of his colleagues said the corps was firmly behind President Biya in the accomplishment of his New Deal policy. The Ivory Coast ambassador expressed the hope that new year would offer fresh avenues for the construction of global peace for the welfare of mankind.

CHAD

Opposition Denies Defections to Habre Forces

LD281434 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] and the Revolutionary Democratic Council [CDR] have denied reports that members of the CDR have rallied to the Northern Armed Forces. The enemies of the Ndjamena government, who are thus playing down their disunity, also announced that violent clashes are currently taking place in the central and eastern parts of the country, with action directed against President Habre's troops.

The integration of 150 CDR militants within President Habre's forces was announced last Tuesday in the Chadian capital, presented as the result of lengthy negotiations between Ndjamena and certain CDR factions. The negotiations themselves are reported to have caused great dissension in the opposition. Today, the CDR says the information stems from a slanderous campaign aimed at concealing President Habre's refusal to negotiate with the GUNT. In turn, and echoing these statements, a GUNT representative to Europe, Issaka Ramat al-Hamdou, claims that puppet elements of the CDR are being used for propaganda purposes by the Ndjamena government.

The CDR and GUNT also announce jointly that there has been fighting against President Habre's forces. According to Al-Hamdou, clashes took place between 19 and 23 December in the Guera region, resulting in more than 150 dead among Hissein Habre's troops. According to this GUNT representative, this is what the Ndjamena regime has concealed and curtailed behind an alleged integration of GUNT elements.

GABON

Bongo Orders 'Conditional' Release of Prisoners

AB291430 Paris AFP in English 1423 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Libreville, Dec 29 (AFP) — President Omar Bongo of Gabon has ordered the "conditional" release of three opposition members who had served two years of a 20-year term at hard labor on charges of endangering state security, official sources said here today. The decision, taken yesterday to mark Omar Bongo's 49th birthday tomorrow, was the second time in a month that the Gabonese president has pardoned political opponents suspected of belonging to the outlawed Movement for National Recovery (Morena). President Bongo freed six other prisoners November 12 to mark the 17th anniversary of his coming to power.

With the release of the nine, there are said to be less than 10 political prisoners still held in Gabonese jails following a November 1982 trial of some 40 alleged Morena members, accused of insulting the president and endangering state security.

BENIN

President Kerekou Addresses Diplomatic Corps

AB290955 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The diplomatic corps and the international organizations accredited to our country this morning presented their new year wishes to the head of state in the Ambassadors' Hall of the Presidential Palace. It fell to His Excellency Vitaliy Agapov, the USSR ambassador, in his capacity as dean of the diplomatic corps, to address President Kerekou.

[Begin Agapov recording] Obviously a decisive move is necessary in the field of disarmament to enable the advent of true international detente and cooperation between states with different social systems on the basis of peaceful coexistence and a better interdependence. There are certainly some prospects for negotiations in 1985 on nuclear disarmament. The recent resolution of the 39th session of the UN General Assembly approved by the absolute majority of member states falls within this framework. It is to be hoped that such negotiations — both at bilateral and multilateral levels — will meet with success. This would have a positive impact on the world situation. We (?hope) that radical decisions will be made resulting in the total liquidation of nuclear weapons with the view to removing the real danger of a thermonuclear war.

Mr President, in reiterating our sincere congratulations on the new year, I beseech you to accept the best wishes of good health, fresh successes, prosperity, and happiness which the diplomatic corps expresses to you and to the friendly people of Benin. Happy New Year, Mr President. [end recording]

Replying to the wishes, President Kerekou took stock of the economic and political situation of the past year.

[Begin Kerekou recording] In 1984, no sizeable progress was achieved in the political field either in Africa or on the international front. In Africa, war is going on in Western Sahara because of the Moroccan Kingdom's obstinate rejection of direct negotiations with the Polisario front as recommended by the just and relevant resolutions of the OAU, the United Nations, and the Nonaligned Movement, thus threatening peace and stability in the subregion. In the face of this anachronistic situation, I will once again solemnly reaffirm our firm, tactical, and unconditional support of our people, our party, and our revolutionary state to the heroic Saharan people who are resolutely engaged in a just and noble liberation struggle under the dynamic leadership of their political vanguard movement, the Polisario Front, with the view to definitively recovering its full inalienable right to independence and the scrupulous respect of the integrity of its national territory by all. This is why the militant and revolutionary Beninese people, their vanguard party, the People's Revolution Party of Benin, and their revolutionary state warmly hailed the admission of the SDAR into the OAU as its 51st member state and the effective participation of a delegation from that fraternal and friendly country in the deliberations of the 20th ordinary session of the OAU held in Addis Ababa from 12 to 15 December 1984 [date as heard].

In southern Africa, the racist and fascist minority regime in Pretoria resorts to its sordid machinations and Machiavellian delaying and divisive maneuvers and continues its impudent, obnoxious, barbaric, and unqualifiable work by provocative armed attacks against the Frontline States with the complicity of some UN member countries.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: The difficulties being experienced by the World Bank to set up the Special Fund for Africa is of major concern to our people and our states. Up to this day, out of the $17 billion promised by some countries of goodwill, we can only hope for $2 billion. Yet everybody is aware of the dramatic situation on the African Continent. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to reiterate in your presence, Your Excellencies, the urgent appeal made respectively on 15 November 1984 by the OAU in Addis Ababa and on 12 December 1984 by ECOWAS in Lome to industrialized countries to show more solidarity with peoples of underdeveloped countries by positively responding to these appeals and also to act with the urgency the disastrous situation in Africa calls for in setting up this special fund initiated by the World Bank.

Mr Dean of the diplomatic corps, Your Excellencies members of the diplomatic and consular corps, representatives of international organizations, ladies and gentlemen, at the end of our speech, we are pleased to express to you and, through you, to the eminent heads of state or governments as well as heads of international organizations who accredited you to the People's Republic of Benin, our deep feelings of friendship, solidarity, cooperation, and faith in a better future for all the working people of Benin, their vanguard party, the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin, their Revolutionary National Assembly and their National Executive Council. We also express our sincere wishes of good health, long life, peace and happiness, prosperity, and social progress for them, their families, and their people.

May the year 1985 be one of wisdom, tolerance, and mutual understanding among the peoples and states of the whole world; may the year 1985 be that of the independence for Namibia; may the year 1985 be that of the establishment of peace in Western Sahara; may the year 1985 be that of national reconciliation in Chad; may the year 1985 be that of a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran; may 1985 be that of the beginning of a real new order of the matyred people of Palestine; may 1985 be that of the announcement of direct and open negotiations between the DPRK and the South Korean authorities that will lead to the peaceful and independent reunification of the great Korean fatherland; may 1985 be that of the resumption of direct negotiations by the two superpowers for a global disarmament in the world; may 1985 see the resolute undertaking of dynamic and effective actions by the international community to abolish apartheid in South Africa; and finally, may 1985 be that in which the international community will find adequate solutions to the agonizing problems of hunger, drought, desert encroachment, and diseases in Africa and the world.

To you all, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, comrades, and all your aides and members of your families, we wish you a Happy New Year 1985. Long live the friendship and solidarity among the peoples and states of the whole world! Long live international cooperation! Ready for the revolution, and the struggle continues! [applause]

BURKINA

Soviet Red Cross Donates Baby Food, Tents

AB300815 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Within the framework of the relations of friendship and cooperation existing between Burkina Faso and the Soviet Union and within the framework of the relations between the social organizations of our two countries, the Soviet Embassy yesterday presented the Burkinabe Red Cross with a donation from the Union of Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent [USRCRC] of the USSR. The donation includes 10,000 cans of baby food and 200 tents, worth 63 million CFA francs, which are meant for the inhabitants of the Odala Province.

The first secretary of the Soviet Embassy on the occasion expressed his conviction that the bonds existing between the Soviet Union and Burkina Faso will strengthen and will develop in the future in the interest of the Soviet and Burkinabe peoples. Receiving the donation, Comrade Bernard Youkbare, general secretary of the Red Cross of Burkina Faso, thanked the USRCRC of the USSR for the aid, which once again demonstrates the fruitful cooperation which has existed for a long time between our two organizations.

GHANA

Annan Reviews Developments, Outlines 1985 Tasks

AB282057 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Radio and television address to the nation by Provisional National Defense Council, PNDC, member Justice D.F. Annan in Accra on 28 December 1984; occasion not specified — live]

[Excerpts] Fellow Ghanaians, on 31 December 1981, our country, Ghana, was ushered into a revolutionary process, committed to principles of social justice, political accountability, and human dignity. On that day, the chairman of the PNDC called for popular revolution which would ensure the participation of all our people in the decisionmaking process from the grass roots to the highest levels of government. This call was based on the perception that the failure to achieve a stable political system since independence necessitated a new approach, a radical and fundamental confirmation of the politcal, economic, and social systems to the supreme national effort for the total development of our people. Today, at the close of the 3d year of this process, it is our duty and our right to pause and to take stock of this process, to reveal its strength and weaknesses, and to rededicate ourselves to the tasks of the next year, the 4th year in a frank, candid, and forthright evaluation and analysis of our past actions.

In this field, I would like, on my part as chairman of the National Commission for Democracy and of the National Economic Commission, to show a review of progress over the year and the tasks that we must address in the coming year.

The year 1984 has been, without doubt, a year of significant improvement in the political and economic life of our nation as compared to 1983. It was also a year of promise of still better things to come.

In 1983, we had to cope with the staggering burden of a sudden 8 to 10 percent increase in our population following the expulsion of Ghanaian national from Nigeria. We had to cope with another year of devasting drought which affected both food crops and cocoa and a sharp drop in water level in the Akosombo Dam which led to the curtailment of power for domestic as well as for industrial uses. Food production fell to about half of its normal level. We lost about 174,000 metric tons in maize output, equivalent to about $34 million in imports.

In the coming year, the government is resolved to put an end to all parasitism, indiscipline, and mismanagement in our economic system. It is only in this way that we can lessen the hardship in our economic situation and also create the necessary conditions for a better life for all of us.

On the political front, it is, I think, right to say that in spite of initial uncertainties, even mistakes and misdirection, our popular democratic revolution is increasingly gaining a truly national character. In this country, we are blessed with a traditional social system that has evolved with the time into a basically homogeneous society in which ethnic diversity has not been allowed to retard our progress toward national unity. The National Commission for Democracy is firmly dedicated to the principle that real national development must be based on a political foundation that is generally acceptable to all our people. But this foundation cannot be built by paying blind homage to political ideas of whatever description which do not reflect our historical commitment to human dignity, freedom, justice, and fairness in public life.

It is, however, important for us to clearly understand that any system of political thought and action which we prescribe for ourselves can only sustain itself if it derives its strength from continuing, sometimes renewed dialogue with our people in the village, the town, the district, the region, and the nation as a whole. In this respect, we have to remind ourselves constantly of the persistent failure of past political systems and constitutional structures to mobilize our people and our resources for effective development.

To a large measure, this was due to lack of political will and commitment on the past of previous governments to institute policies and programs capable of creating and sustaining popular confidence in organs of government.

During the past 3 years of our own political process, we have sought increasingly to keep under review interim organs which were put in place at the initial stages. The National Commission for Democracy, which was established early in 1982, has now

been fully constituted. The commission has the statutory responsibility of collecting the views of all sections of our society for the urgent national objective of establishing popular governments in our country. For this purpose, the commission will soon launch a political program designed to involve our people as a whole in the task of reconstructing the political system from the bottom to the top. The commission plans to preserve its platform for public discussion, free from the acrimonious partisan loyalties which have persisted since independence and which had obstructed the development of an objective political system at the local level as well as in national affairs.

Our people are the sole architects, builders and beneficiaries of our revolution. The National Commission for Democracy, therefore, will have to work with all our people at all ages, in all the regions of our nation, in our contribution to the overall development of our country. We, therefore, repeat the call to all men and women of good will to rally round the banner of national democratic revolution as participants, rather than onlookers, in the ongoing efforts to create conditions of stability and progress for ourselves.

In these efforts, we mean to involve all our people in the national program to recreate a cultural planet in which our unique Ghanaian character can best grow and floursih.

On behalf of the National Commission for Democracy, and the National Economic Commission, may I wish you all prosperity and progress in the year 1985. Thank you.

IVORY COAST

President Receives Benin, Mauritania Delegations

AB282158 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] President Houphouet-Boigny this morning received in audience delegations from two African countries, Benin and Mauritania. The two delegations delivered messages to the head of state. At the end of his audience with the head of state, Daniel Tawuena, permanent under secretary to President Mathieu Kerekou, made the following statement:

[Begin Tawuena recording] I cannot reveal the contents of this message, but what I can say is that it concerns strengthening of the cooperation, the fraternal and friendly relations existing between the People's Republic of Benin and the Republic of Ivory Coast. [end recording]

Lieutenant Colonel Ould Abdallah, minister of interior, led the Mauritanian delgation, which held talks with President Houphouet-Boigny for about an hour. It should be noted that Mauritania changed its government on 12 December. Lt Col Abdallah disclosed that their discussions centered on the current situation in Mauritania.

[Begin Abdallah recording] Mauritania is an African country, and when something happens to her, it is her duty to inform African leaders, particularly President Houphouet-Boigny, who is one of the oldest heads of state and a very wise man. I therefore informed him of the recent changes. I also spoke of cooperation between Ivory Coast and Mauritania. I am very happy to be received by President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, whom I have respected and held in high esteem for many years. I thank the people of Ivory Coast for the reception accorded me, and also for the hospitality shown to Mauritanians here. [end recording]

LIBERIA

Doe Reviews 1984 at Last Cabinet Meeting of Year

AB281920 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1710 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] Head of state Commander in Chief Samuel K. Doe has called on members of the Cabinet to redouble their efforts in fiscal 1985 so as to achieve the goals and aspirations of national development. Dr Doe, who made the call yesterday at the Executive Mansion during the last Cabinet meeting in 1984, said it is necessary for Cabinet ministers to be dedicated and committed to their assignments because the nation and people were looking up to them for positive leadership. The press secretary to the head of state told the LIBERIA NEWS AGENCY shortly after the meeting that Commander in Cheif Doe and members of the Cabinet examined in depth the serious economic difficulties the nation experienced in 1984 and discussed strategies and plans to achieve economic recovery in 1985. Head of state noted that the year 1984 was a difficult year for the nation and people and asked the Cabinet ministers to reflect on those difficult times so that they could approach 1985 with renewed zeal to achieve much in the coming year. Commander in Chief Doe also asked the Cabinet ministers to take steps necessary to preserve the security and peace of the nation and commended them for the achievements the government made in 1984.

On behalf of the Cabinet ministers, Foreign Minister T. Ernest Eastman assured head of state Doe that as the nation moves toward 1985, Cabinet ministers stood committed and united to help achieve the goals and aspirations of the Liberian people as they have always done in the past.

Secom Pledges To Hold Free Fair Elections

AB282222 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] The Special Elections Commission [Secom] has reaffirmed its commitment to hold free and fair elections in the country next year for the smooth transition to civilian rule in 1986.

This was contained in a letter of (?debenture) sent to the chairman of the proposed United People's Party, G. Bacchus Matthews, by the cochairman of Secom, Mr Albert Whyte. The Secom cochairman also called on Mr Matthews to obtain benefits through negotiations rather than threats, intimidations, or violence. Concluding his letter to Mr Matthews, the Secom cochairman said Liberians are commited to helping and not hurting. (?It is recalled that) when the proposed United People's Party presented its financial requirements to Secom, the chairman of the proposed party, Mr Matthews, said he would foil any attempt to rig the forthcoming elections in Liberia.

Unity Party Meets Certification Requirements

AB282107 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1710 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] The Special Elections Commission [Secom] has cleared the Unity Party of Liberia of any form of fraud in its recently published partisan list as alleged by some concerned citizens.

Yesterday's edition of the *DAILY OBSERVER* quotes a release issued by Secom as saying that the challenges made by the concerned citizens were referred to the records division of the commission and the Unity Party for scrutiny and comments. The release added that this exercise resulted in 319 additional names of qualified voters being submitted to the Elections Commission which were thereafter verified by its records division. The commission then expressed thanks to all those who challenged the qualified voters list of the Unity Party and assured the public that the 3,000 names of qualified voters required in Section 1 of the guideline are in order.

The commission said the Unity Party has fully met the requirements of certification.

MALI

Traore Receives Burkina Minister, Sankara Message

AB300820 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People and president of the Republic, this morning received in audience Comrade Nongma Ernest Ouedraogo, minister of interior and security of Burkina Faso. The Burkinabe minister was a bearer of a message from Thomas Sankara to President Moussa Traore.

The deep conviction of friendship and brotherhood between Mali and Burkina Faso constituted the major topics of discussions which took place in the presence of our minister of interior, Lieutenant Colonel Abderhamane Maiga; the secretary general at the Presidency, Mohamed Alousseini Toure; and Tidjiani Guissey, the diplomatic adviser at the Presidency.

NIGERIA

Chadian Delivers Note on Border Closure

AB281856 Paris AFP in English 1808 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] Lagos, Dec 28 (AFP) — Problems arising from the closure of Nigeria's borders were the subject of a message from the government of neighboring Chad handed to the Foreign Ministry here today.

The message from Chadian President Hissein Habre was delivered by the secretary-general of the presidency, Ahmed Kerim Togoi, who told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE it dealt with bilateral matters, and particularly the border closure.

Nigeria closed its borders last April in a bid to stop smuggling and illegal currency transactions. They have been opened only once, briefly, to allow convoys of relief aid to pass through Cameroon and Niger to Chad.

Nigeria's border with Chad runs through Lake Chad, but there is a long tradition of trade between the two countries through Cameroon. In normal times Chad provides Nigeria with large quantities of meat, in return for oil supplies.

TOGO

Assembly Ratifies Quadrilateral Treaties

AB281537 Lome Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 27 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The National Assembly met this afternoon at the Rally of the Togolese People's House, in a plenary session under the chairmanship of Apedo Amah, speaker of the National Assembly and member of the Central Committee of the party. The session ratified three bills on the extradition treaty, the criminal investigation cooperation treaty, and the treaty on mutual administrative assistance in matters relating to trade, customs, and immigration.

These three treaties were signed between the People's Republic of Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, and Togo on 10 December 1984 in Lagos. The government was represented at the National Assembly by Koffi Amega, member of the Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. He thanked the National Assembly for ratifying in such a short time the bill submitted to it.

ANGOLA

Condolence Message From Dos Santos to Chernenko

MB290944 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Message of condolence from President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to Konstantin Chernenko, CPSU general secretary and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, on the occasion of the death of Defense Minister Dmitriy Ustinov — date not given]

[Text] In the name of the Angolan people, the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party, and the Government of the People's Republic of Angola, and in my own name, I express our most heartfelt condolences to the Soviet people and to the CPSU Central Committee, as well as to the bereaved family, on the passing away of Comrade Dmitriy Ustinov, member of the CPSU Politburo and defense minister.

With the demise of Comrade Ustinov, the USSR lost one of its best sons, whose exemplary life was totally dedicated to the struggle for construction and consolidation of the socialist society, for the strengthening of the communist and international workers movements, and for the peace and progress of mankind. In this (?difficult hour) for your people, the members of the MPLA-Labor Party and the Angolan people share your grief and reaffirm our wishes of friendship and active and militant solidarity.

I want to express to you our high esteem and fraternal consideration.

[Signed] President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Hails Nkomati Accord in New Year Message

MB300626 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] President Samora Machel yesterday said that the Nkomati Accord, signed after a long and complex process of negotitations, was undeniably a vital element which ensured our independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty. In a new year message, the Mozambican head of state emphasized that the Nkomati Accord was the result of our victories in the military and diplomatic fields, the recognition of our socialist option, and the assertion of our independence and the sovereignty of our decisions. The Nkomati Accord, the message said, marked a qualitatively new development in the struggle of the peoples of southern Africa, and it was proof that two neighboring countries with contrasting socioeconomic systems can coexist peacefully and avoid the threat of a conflict which could transform itself into a general confrontation.

With the signing of the Nkomati Accord, the main links of the international network of organized conspiracy against Mozambique became apparent. Field Marshal Samora Machel pointed out that the network was vast and involved powerful economic groups, nostalgic colonial settlers who lost their privileges, high-level personalities, and political parties. The true elements behind this conspiracy were based in certain capitals of Western Europe and benefitted from the complicity of personalities and organizations in some countries neighboring Mozambique, where they receive the needed logistical support and infiltrated terrorists, saboteurs, and mercenaries.

President Samora Machel said that the criminal actions were only possible because of this foreign support, which continued to nourish terrorism in the People's Republic of Mozambique. In his message, Field Marshal Samora Machel pointed out that the government had welcomed those who had abandoned the path of terrorism and had given themselves up to our forces. He said that hundreds of those who were sorry for the crimes they had carried out were already rebuilding their lives, thus benefitting from the pardon which had been granted. For those who did not make use of this pardon and persisted in crime and treason, the only thing that awaited them was death and the people's punishment.

RSA Accused By Workers of Violating Nkomati Pact

MB281214 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The Mozambican community in South Africa has accused Pretoria of violating the Nkomati Accord signed between the two countries last March. A group of almost 100 Mozambicans living and working in South Africa were received yesterday in Maputo by President Samora Machel for the traditional end of year meeting.

The group read out a message praising Mozambique for its profound (?knowledge) of the situation, which led to the signing of the Nkomati Accord with the aim of establishing peace in the region. The message says that Mozambique signed the pact in all sincerity, without any subterfuge.

However, the message continued, the South African Government only signed the accord to gain time and everything that was hidden before is now coming into the open. South Africa never stopped supporting, training, equipping, and arming the Mozambican National Resistance bandits, nor did it stop sending payloads of arms to them inside Mozambique, the message concludes.

Maputo Cites R.F. Botha on Nkomati Violation

MB281831 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] South Africa's foreign minister, Roelof Botha, says he has contacted the Mozambican leadership who clarified press reports that quoted President Samora Machel as having accused the South African Government of violating the Nkomati Accord.

In a statement in Pretoria, Mr Botha says he has discussed aspects of President Samora Machel's speech of last Monday at the Manhica rally and he is satisfied that the president did not make such an accusation. In that speech, President Samora Machel had actually said Pretoria created the Mozambique National Resistance [MNR] terrorist group in Mozambique and therefore bears responsibility for it.

Deputy Defense Minister Returns from USSR, GDR
MB310958 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] Colonel General Sebastiao Mabote, deputy minister of national defense and chief of general staff of the Mozambique Armed Forces, the FPLM, returned to Maputo this morning after a stay in the USSR and the GDR.

In the Sovet capital Moscow, Col Gen Sebastiao Mabote represented the Frelimo Party, the Mozambique Armed Forces, and the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique at the funeral of the late Soviet defense minister, Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov. During his stay in Moscow, Col Gen Sebastiao Mabote held a working meeting with Sergey Sokolov, the present Soviet defense minister, and the chief of General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces.

In the GDR capital, Berlin, Sebastiao Mabote also met with Colonel General Fritz Streletz, chief of the main staff of that country.

NAMIBIA

Paper Comments on Anti-RSA Campaign in U.S.
MB280925 Windhoek DIE REPUBLIKEIN in Afrikaans 20 Dec 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Another Kick?"]

[Text] Over the past few years, the people of South-West Africa/Namibia have become accustomed to being the plaything in international politics. In another sense, we have also become the plaything in southern African politics. In the process, the inhabitants of the territory have grown apathetic towards their future, and have come to regard many things which affect them most closely as yet another part of the game.

So it is no wonder that very few South-West Africans are concerning themselves much over the intense anti-South African campaign now taking place in America. We do not wish to play devil's advocate in the process, but perhaps it is necessary to sound the warning that his campaign is going to have a greater influence on our country and its people than would seem to be the case at present.

Various leaders in South-West Africa/Namibia have warned in the past — here, notably, the leaders of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance — that all the parties involved in the South-West Africa/Namibia issue are acting in their own interests. That includes South Africa. It does not take much insight at this stage to realize that the South African Government and its policy directions are coming under increasing pressure in the United States. It is also not difficult to predict that this pressure will be maintained and even increased.

Another fact is that South Africa and America are currently the two parties most closely involved with the South-West Africa/Namibia question. No one can deny, either, that the political process in this country has, in the past, been the victim of political developments in South Africa — both internal and external.

So we say, almost with reluctance, that the latest developments in America regarding South Africa are taking on a character that will involve this territory in the ongoing activities. During the past year, the political process in the country has begun to change in a direction that can only bode well for it and its people. South Africa's noninvolvement in this attempt has up to now been praiseworthy, and to the advantage of the future of South-West Africa/Namibia and its people. But the fear that the campaign against South Africa will, in the long run, have an influence on developments locally, and cannot be brushed aside as unfounded.

At this stage, the independence of the territory is a trump card in the hands of more than one of the parties involved. Before this card lands in the hands of the people of the territory themselves, they will have to be wary of the outcome of demonstrations even in a land as distant as America. Until that happens, we will be at the mercy of the interests of other countries.

SOUTH AFRICA

R.F. Botha: Mozambique Denies Nkomati Accusations
MB281606 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1558 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 28, SAPA — The Mozambican Government today denied accusing the South African Government of aiding rebels in its country, but claimed that assistance was coming from the region of South Africa. The South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, said in a statement in Pretoria that he had discussed the allegations of a South African breach with members of the Mozambican Government.

He said they "categorically confirmed that the Mozambican Government made no allegations that the South African Government has broken the Nkomati Accord." The allegations were reportedly made by President Samora Machel in a speech earlier this week. Two Portuguese news agencies quoted Mr Machel as saying that despite the non-aggression pact, South Africa was still equipping and supporting the Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] movement.

Mr Botha said, however, that the government was "urgently investigating" other claims submitted by the Maputo Government of "alleged assistance to Renamo from the area of South Africa and from certain other countries..." The statement did not name the countries.

Mr Botha said that in his discussions with the Mozambican officials today they had "expressed appreciation at the positive role that the South African Government is playing to bring the Nkomati accord to fruition."

The peace pact, signed in March this year, was said by political observers to have come its closest to total collapse after Mr Machel's speech at the town of Manhica was quoted by the media on Christmas Day.

Earlier today, Mr Botha's representative in Maputo, Mr Colin Patterson, arrived in Pretoria with a copy of Mr Machel's speech. Mr Botha said aspects of the speech were discussed with the Frelimo officials. He did not specify any further.

Denies Aid to Renamo

LD282247 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Mr Botha emphatically denied that Renamo had been supported by South Africa since the signing of the Accord of Nkomati in March this year. He said he had no knowledge of South Africa providing any help to Renamo before the conclusion of the accord. He said, nevertheless, that South Africa would not hesitate to investigate any allegations by the Frelimo government that Renamo was receiving help from South African territory. His government would not allow individuals or groups to endanger the accord with Mozambique by providing help to Renamo.

Mr Botha confirmed that, during his recent tour of East Africa, he had had discussions about assistance to Renamo from states in the region. Leaders in East Africa had expressed the wish for a quick solution to the conflict in Mozambique.

R.F. Botha Discusses Renamo Aid, Recent Trip

MB290750 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans 1800 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] The differences between South Africa and Mozambique have been settled. South Africa is to conduct an investigation into Mozambican allegations that help is being given to Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] from South African territory. South Africa's foreign affairs minister said in Pretoria that it is important for his government to get to the truth of these allegations. There will be efforts to bring about a cease-fire in Mozambique because it would be important for all of southern Africa. Mr Botha made these developments known to Andre le Roux in an interview after studying the text of President Machel's alleged accusations. He also spoke about aspects of the talks with Mozambican leaders.

[Begin recording] [Botha] The Mozambican Government has reaffirmed that it is not accusing, I repeat, not accusing the South African Government of having broken any provision of the Nkomati Accord. What they are indeed doing — and that is the gist of what President Machel said as conveyed to me — is that they have details of allegations that help is reaching Renamo from South African territory from individuals and also from the territories of other countries. As far as the allegations are concerned, if help is being given to Renamo from South African territory, those allegations will be thoroughly and urgently investigated by our police authorities and then we will talk further to Mozambique on the basis of that investigation.

[Le Roux] Minister, the allegation by Mozambique that Renamo is being helped from South African territory is not a new allegation. Have there not already been investigations into such allegations?

[Botha] Yes, that is why we have created a joint security commission. It is their task primarily to investigate such allegations and they are doing that. It is important for us that the two governments trust each other, even though we differ ideologically, no matter how great the difference is between us on political grounds. When you have concluded an accord, you abide by it, and South Africa is known for this.

[Le Roux] Minister, the question has been asked many times before, but can you say categorically that you do not support Renamo now, in the past, or in the future?

[Botha] I do not speak about the past, but only from the date of the signing of the Nkomati Accord. Before that I have no knowledge, but I have knowledge from the date of the signing of the Nkomati Accord. From that date the South African Government has not violated one provision of the Nkomati Accord and we will not. We are not so stupid as to conclude such accords simply to break them in a treacherous manner.

[Le Roux] Is the investigation requested by the Mozambicans supposed to be a prerequisite for the continuation of the Nkomati Accord?

[Botha] Indeed not.

[Le Roux] Regarding the other countries which are alleged to be helping Renamo, these countries must inevitably be in East Africa. You have recently paid a visit to East Africa. Was this matter discussed?

[Botha] Yes, I have told the countries that I visited, amicably, but in a straightforward manner, that there are allegations that help is being given Renamo from their territories. They gave me assurances that this was not the case, and I conveyed those assurances to President Machel in the talks which I held with representatives of his government. We must realize in southern Africa that political solutions brought about through violence will not last. We must accept that the leaders of southern Africa must find solutions to their problems themselves. The major powers will not do it for us.

[Le Roux] Minister, the reticence about your recent visit to East Africa forces me to ask you where you were, what you did, and I understand that one of the things discussed was landing rights in Mogadishu, Somalia. Is that so?

[Botha] What is important is that [word indistinct] and that we talk to leaders of other African states. Yes, one of the topics was the expansion of airways connections between South Africa, between other countries in southern Africa, and other countries in Africa, including the countries which I have visited. It is to our mutual benefit. We who live in southern Africa, who talk to leaders of southern Africa, and who are aware of the problems of southern Africa know most leaders of southern Africa realize the facts. That is the hope for the future, that despite our differences the reality comes through. [end video]

Additional African Trade Links Discussed by R.F. Botha
MB300800 Johannesburg SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 30 Dec 84 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] South Africa is set to wrap up a package of diplomatic triumphs that are confidently expected to lead to the opening of a new network of trade links — and landing and overflying rights for South African Airways [SAA] — with a nucleus of East African and other black states.

Signs of the government's fresh initiatives to open Africa to closer trade and transport links emerged with the news of the secret safari by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, into Somalia and other countries nearby.

Behind Mr Botha's back-door mission lies a spectacular story that could lead to a new era in trade and economic co-operation between South Africa and black Africa, particularly with countries in the east of the continent.

In the wake of the Minister's historic diplomatic shuttle, it has emerged that negotiations at official government level are under way with at least one country — Somalia — to grant SAA landing rights in the capital, Mogadishu, on the Indian Ocean.

Talks between Mr Botha and top Somali government officials included the possibility of SAA setting up an office to handle booking and freight in Mogadishu, and the establishment of an official trade delegation in the country.

They also discusssed the possibility of South Africa providing technical aid and medical and other equipment to combat malaria and animal diseases in Somalia, which is poverty-stricken and ravaged by a three-year drought.

Mr Botha discussed the question of extending air links with other East African heads of state, although it is not known which.

It has also been disclosed that SAA may soon again be landing on the African west coast at Abidjan, capital of the Ivory Coast.

Mr Botha, in his talks with East African leaders, is said to have emphasised that South Africa could play a vital role in opening up the Southern and East African region to brisker and closer economic ties, and that South Africa was ready to play its part.

He is reported to have told them that it would be Africa itself, and not the superpowers or the West, that would have to determine its destiny.

It is not known what countries Mr Botha visited, although, contrary to reports in South Africa, he did not visit Nairobi or hold talks with the Kenyan government.

However, more discussions about new links with other countries — including perhaps even Egypt and Sudan — may also take place. If SAA were able to obtain overflying rights from these countries, all of its flights to Britain and Europe would be on a direct route.

Mr Botha is understood to have told the East African leaders that the spirit of the Nkomati accord could be extended beyond the interests of its signatories.

Its purpose, he said, was not only to maintain peace and security between South Africa and Mozambique, but to encourage trading links between them and other states in Africa.

Armscor Head Threatens Cut in Intelligence to West
MB300730 Johannesburg SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 30 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] London — South Africa may stop supplying the West with information collected at the super-secret Silvermine listening post in the Cape unless it receives the aircraft needed for intelligence gathering.

This was made clear by Commandant Piet Marais, chairman of Armscor, in an interview with the authoritative London-based publication, *INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE REVIEW*.

And, he said, if the aircraft were not forthcoming, South Africa would "certainly not" continue reconnaissance of the "wide area" of the Cape sea route for the West.

A top government spokesman in Pretoria confirmed yesterday that Cmdt Marais's comments were in line with government thinking.

He said the West could not expect South Africa to carry out surveillance of the vital sea route if it did not assist by supplying the necessary equipment.

Cmdt Marais told *INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE REVIEW*: "In view of the fact that the Western countries are showing no active interest in supplying us with the type of aircraft required for air-sea rescue operations or for reconnaissance of the wide area of the Cape sea route, we are certainly not going to do this for them any longer.

"We are looking after our own interests now."

He went on to say South Africa was considering stopping the supply of information to the West via the Silvermine coastal surveillance network, which is linked to a world-wide net.

"So far, we have been supplying the West with information via Silvermine. But I think the Minister (of Defence) will tell you that it may come to an end unless the Western powers are prepared to help us on this."

Cmdt Marais added: "We have to keep up with whatever could be brought into Africa against us. So the intelligence function is very important to us, especially with regard to what the Russians are doing."

Both the British Foreign Office and Defence Ministry were unaware of South Africa's reported intentions. A spokesman for the Foreign Office said there had been no official statement to the British government.

In the interview, Cmdt Marais also emphasised that South Africa was not going to buy any aircraft from Britain "under the present circumstances".

This was a possible reference to Press reports earlier this year that South Africa was considering buying the British Aerospace Coastguarder reconnaissance aircraft.

British Aerospace denied at the time that it was going to sell the plane to South Africa and thereby defy the international arms embargo.

Cmdt Marais also said feasibility studies were under way to build a South African helicopter.

South Africa was manufacturing more and more spare helicopter parts, "but we will have to end up by building them ourselves at some stage", he said.

Officials Discuss New Ties With Swaziland

MB281050 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1830 GMT 27 Dec 84

["News Focus" program: "Swaziland — The Realistic Neighbor" presented by Mark Lloyd — recorded]

[Text] [Begin Swaziland Minister of Foreign Affairs Mnisi recording] Relations between Swaziland and South Africa, as far as we are concerned, are cordial relations. We feel that as our neighbors, we should be having that type of relationship of human understanding and of good neighborliness. [end recording]

[Mark Lloyd] In News Focus tonight, relations between South Africa and Swaziland. Good evening, the already favorable relations between South Africa and Swaziland were further strengthened today with the official signing of an agreement in Pretoria to exchange trade representatives. The agreement is also further proof of the realism with which Swaziland is approaching its relations with its neighbors in Southern Africa and in particular with South Africa.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Riaan Nel] This is Mbabane, the capital of the Kingdom of Swaziland, where South Africa's first trade representative will be stationed. The exchange of representatives at this level is regarded as of great significance by both countries. It is also closely linked to the strong economic ties between these two southern African states.

[Sam Sterban, South African trade representative to Swaziland] The significance of the exchange of trade representatives between South Africa and Swaziland is, as far as I am concerned, the fact that we have now established in each other's countries for the first time resident representatives, and I think that this is a very significant development in South Africa's relations with their neighboring states.

[Derick von Wissel, Swaziland minister of commerce, industry, mines, and tourism] The exchange of trade representatives is important to Swaziland because of the large volume of trade commodities coming through or from South Africa, and also it facilitates communications between our goverments. There is room for closer cooperation between South Africa and Swaziland, especially with the investment sector.

Swaziland feels it is not getting its fair share of investment in the southern African region, and particularly, the decentralization policy of the South African Government is affecting investment in our area, but we have been talking to the South African authorities on this and they aware of the situation.

[Sterban] I think Swaziland benefits from this arrangement. South Africa is also in a position as far as Swaziland is concerned to assist her with expertise, but this is not a one-way flow. South Africa has also learned a lot from Swaziland, and our proximity, I feel, does help to generate the economic ties in both directions.

[Von Wissel] The economic relations in the area are extremely important. We cannot be isolated and develop on our own.

[Nel] It was the late King Sobhuza II, in his 60 years as king of Swaziland, who laid the foundation for the present healthy relations between the two countries. Although King Sobhuza never supported South Africa's internal policies, he was the leading figure in ensuring goodwill between South Africa and Swaziland. His death in 1982 left a definite vacuum in the Kingdom, but there is little doubt in diplomatic circles that the path laid down by him will be followed by future Swazi leaders. Princess Ntombi, is at present the acting head of the Swazi monarchy, and is working with close collaboration with the Swaziland Supreme Council. She will perform this duty until the crown prince, 18-year-old Prince Makhosetive, becomes king at a later stage.

[Mnisi] We feel that as other neighbors, we should be having that type of relationship of human understanding and of good neighborliness.

[George Msibi, member of the Supreme Council of Swaziland] Early this year it was felt that Swaziland and South Africa too should enter some formal relationship as far as security matters are concerned, and the basic reason for this was to ensure the stability in the region, because any factor that destabilizes Swaziland will in some form or other affect South Africa, and any destabilization that takes place in South Africa will affect Swaziland.

So it was felt that we should have some form of security arrangement and this has brought about a better understanding of each other's problems. We are monitoring situations and keeping each other informed, and in that way that has made a tremendous impact on our relationship.

[Mnisi] We feel that there are certain things which South Africa should try and put right, like the apartheid, which everybody is denouncing all over the world. We do expect that South Africa will try her best to quicken up some of her reforms. If, then, she could be accepted as one of the sons and daughters of Africa, because they do belong to this part of the world. They are part and parcel of us.

[Nel] Here in the background is the parliament of Swaziland, where many important decisions about ties with South Africa have been made. The continued cordial relationship Swaziland is maintaining with South Africa is not always popular with other black African states. This includes Swaziland's attitude towards terrorism.

[Msibi] We understand and we know that there are some members of the OAU, for example, who do not subscribe to our policy, and our attitude towards South Africa. They have stated their views very plainly and bluntly, but we have also been able to state our views clearly and bluntly that Swaziland believes in diplomatic exchanges, diplomatic negotiations. Swazis do not believe in fighting out issues. As the king stated towards the end of his life, that Swaziland will always sit down and discuss problems with an enemy or with somebody they do not understand.

[Mnisi] As far as Swaziland is concerned, definitely each and every country is free to express itself, but they cannot put pressure on us as a soverign state. We know our own problems, we have stated them, and they know our problems and they do agree with us because we are frank; we are bold; we do not hide these things. We talk them openly in international forums so that we have made our point clear and our friends respect us for that.

[Msibi] The position of the Government of Swaziland is this: that nobody should be allowed to use Swaziland as a springboard for activities against our neighbors, whether it is against South Africa or against Mozambique. We will never permit this to happen. Early this year we did have some problems with the ANC, and these of course were the result consequential to the signing of the Nkomati Accord, when Mozambique decided that the ANC could no longer have bases in Mozambique. Some of the ANC cadre felt that they had to move into Swaziland to be closer to South Africa. That resulted of course in the few skirmishes that you read about in the papers, but I am glad to say that these have now been overcome. I am glad to say that we did hold a meeting in Lusaka under the aegis of Dr Kaunda. I was the leader of that delegation, and at that meeting we were able to iron out the differences between the ANC and Swaziland, and we have now agreed that ANC cadres, or new members coming in of the ANC should be moved out of Swaziland.

[Mnisi] As far as the position of the ANC is concerned to Swaziland, is not concerned with the ANC as such. As far as we are concerned any genuine refugees which come to Swaziland will be given political asylum. We are not particular with a certain body, but it should be borne in mind that we will not allow any refugees which run away from their countries to come and make Swaziland a base to attack their former enemies. No, there we are quite clear. We have stated that in the United Nations, and we have stated that in the OAU. Our point is known.

[Nel] One of the strong binding factors in the relationship between the two countries is their commitment to peace in southern Africa. That is a factor have already paid dividends on a wide front.

[Sterban] Swaziland has adopted an extremely realistic and extremely praiseworthy policy of trying to foster peace in the region. It is Swaziland for example that played a very significant role in bringing South Africa and the Government of Mozambique together. Swaziland hosted talks between South Africa and Mozambique at a very crucial stage in the discussions between the two countries here in Swaziland in December 1983, and it was those talks, I feel, that laid the foundation for the further developments between South Africa and Mozambique.

[Msibi] The Nkomati Accord is the child of King Sobhuza. He initiated discussions between Mozambique and South Africa as far back as 1982, just before he died, and we have continued to subscribe — as I said earlier on — to negotiations. So the peace initiatives that are going, on particularly the discussions between the Frelimo and the MNR [Mozambique National Resistance] through the kind offices of South Africa, we support those very strongly. We are equally keenly interested in what is going on at the moment in Angola and in Namibia.

[Mnisi] We would not like to appear as if we and South Africa are collaborating in some of these things. We would encourage that one of these days we will try and have this Manzana Accord. Let us all come together, not two states coming together, otherwise we are going to be misunderstood by the others. They will say, oh, what is cooking between South Africa and Swaziland? We would prefer to have, first of all in the initial stages let us have the officials from all the neighboring states. We could offer Swaziland as a venue. Let them prepare the ground for the politicians so that all the politicians of the neighboring states could come together and exchange ideas, not use the barrel of a gun. We do not believe in that philosophy ourselves. We believe in the fact that we are human beings, we have the mouths to talk if we come together, discuss our problems, then definitely we could arrive into an amicable position. [end recording]

SWAZILAND

Foreign Minister Denies Diplomatic Relations With RSA

MB290810 Mbabane Television Service in Siswati 1630 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Statement by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mhambi Mnisi to reporters at the Foreign Ministry in Mbabane on 28 December — video recorded]

[Text] The regent's government yesterday signed a trade agreement with South Africa. I thought, my countrymen, seeing that rumors are circulating that the Swazi Government has established diplomatic relations with the Boers, to present the true facts. The Swazi Government has merely signed a trade agreement with South Africa. This trade agreement will greatly enhance the commercial links between these two countries. As you well know, this is nothing new.

We have in the past signed other agreements with South Africa, one being the Southern African Customs Union agreement, whose other members are Lesotho and Botswana. Membership in this union has eased trade among these countries. This is a longstanding agreement and is nothing new. Swaziland, Botswana, Lesotho, and South Africa also belong to the Rand Monetary Area and cooperate on monetary matters.

Let no one therefore make an issue of this recent agreement and see more into it than is intended. We merely want trade matters between the two countries to proceed smoothly, hence the need for an exchange of trade missions. We have no qualms about what we are doing. The United Nations knows our stance on relations with South Africa. We have stated our case clearly at the United Nations. Whether we like it or not, South Africa is our neighbor and therefore we have to forge a working relationship with them. In Addis Ababa, at the OAU summit, we stated our case boldly. We told them that we cooperate with South Africa insofar as the movement of goods in and out of our country is concerned, just as we do with Mozambique. They know our stand. We have no intention of cutting our own throats.

What Swaziland has done is merely to sign a trade agreement, and there is nothing to hide there. The whole world has been told. All I am saying, my countrymen, is that all these false rumors should cease. All this about Swaziland having established diplomatic relations with our neighbor are not true.

Bhekimpi Speaks on 'Sinister' Elements, Refugees

MB310936 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] The prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, has appealed to the nation to continue assisting the police in flushing out the elements of sinister motives in the country. In his end of year message, Prince Bhekimpi urged the Swazi nation to report to the authorities anyone suspected to be in possession of arms of war, reminding that the government is against those elements which pose some danger towards the security of the state.

Prince Bhekimpi recalled that since the signing of the Nkomati Accord, the Kingdom's security forces have been working above themselves trying to eradicate subversive elements. He stressed that meetings with evil motives will continue to be under surveillance, adding that those responsible for disruption of peace and the good progress in the country will be dealt with accordingly.

With regard to refugees in the country, the prime minister appealed to the international community to continue assisting the country, revealing that the government is mainly concerned about how to avail the refugees with the necessary amenities and infrastructure required for the betterment of their lives. Prince Bhekimpi pledged that the country would continue abiding by its obligations as embraced by the Geneva conventions on all matters concerning genuine refugees.

With regard to foreign policy, he said Swaziland will continue to pursue its policy of advocating that there should be peaceful solutions to all international problems, a policy guiding members of the Nonaligned Movement, and that Swaziland would also continue with the policy of good neighborliness and noninterference in the domestic affairs of other states.

Governor Blames Aliens for Instability

MB281718 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] Swaziland is unstable today due to aliens hidden by locals in various areas of the country, and because locals have inherited foreign behavior and involve themselves in political affairs which do not concern them. This was said by the governor of the Tinkundla, Mr Mndeni Shabalala, in his office today before our reporter who had an executive audience [as heard] with him.

Mr Shablala said it was the rule and law of this country that peace should be maintained, and added that it can only be achieved if local people would report to chiefs and indunas [assistants to chief] any visitor and any alien living in their area. The leaders should report them to the elders of the nation. Mr Shabalala warned that if leaders in areas fail to report on such people, they will be the first to be blamed and would be answerable for any incident taking place.

He said that very soon chiefs, indunas, and other community leaders will be summoned to certain areas and centers for necessary briefing and to answer questions related to the instability in the different parts of the country. The date of the meetings, Mr Shabalala added, is still to be announced.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Calls on West To Pressure South Africa

MB310605 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] President Kaunda has called on the West, led by the United States, to influence events in South Africa in order to avert the anticipated crisis in that country. Speaking when he met Nobel Peace Prize winner for 1984, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Dr Kaunda regretted Washington's so-called constructive engagement policy, which tended to favor and support the apartheid system.

Dr Kaunda said although Zambia's resources were limited, the country would continue to support those who were fighting for the restoration of freedom and justice, and champion the struggle for freedom. The president said only action on the part of the West could forestall a serious explosion in South Africa, and expressed disappointment at the fact that President Ronald Reagan of the United States had stated that South Africa was a U.S. ally.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Accuses South Africa of Sabotage

MB310616 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has deplored South Africa's continued policy of economic blackmail against its independent black neighboring states. Speaking on the television program "The Nation" last night, Comrade Mugabe said the racist regime is trying to sabotage Zimbabwe's outlets to the sea in order to force it to export all its goods through South African ports. He said the Pretoria regime has sabotaged the Beira pipeline, adding that the pipeline is not working at the moment. Comrade Mugabe also said South Africa is continuing to recruit and train dissidents from this country with a view to destabilizing and negating the peoples' gains since independence.

The prime minister vowed to step up training within the Zimbabwean national Army to enable the force to handle as much sophisticated equipment as possible. He emphasized the need for a better trained and equipped army and said that the government will continue to acquire more equipment for both the Army and the Air Force as long as funds are available. Comrade Mugabe said he is satisfied with the progress made by the Zimbabwe national Army since independence. He thanked the British military adviser team and DPRK and the PRC for offering to train some units of the Army. The prime minister also thanked instructors from Pakistan, whom he said have done a lot in helping transform the Air Force of Zimbabwe.

Mugabe Speaks on General Elections, Nkomo

MB310616 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 31 Dec 84

[Text] The implementation of the ZANU-PF leadership code has already started. This has been disclosed by the first secretary and president of the party, Comrade Robert Mugabe, who said forms had been distributed to the Central Committee members for declaring what properties they have. Speaking on the television program "The Nation" last night, Comrade Mugabe warned those who mask things that they would be found out. He stressed the commitment of the party and the government to the leadership code, which was introduced at the ZANU-PF congress in August.

On the forthcoming general election, Comrade Mugabe said a date has not yet been set by the government and would want elections held either at the end of February or some time in March. He said the ZANU-PF Central Committee will meet soon after the dissolution of Parliament in January to decide on the candidates.

The prime minister also spoke about the resettlement program and disclosed that funds will be forthcoming from the British Government for this purpose. Although Comrade Mugabe expressed general satisfaction at the performance of the rural community, particularly in agriculture, he said more assistance is required. He urged the agricultural finance corporation to give more financial assistance to peasant farmers. He also mentioned the need for trained agricultural personnel to give adequate advice.

The prime minister also said the government has more than circumstantial evidence to arrest Joshua Nkomo, leader of ZAPU, but it has decided to give him more rope. He warned that it should not be taken for granted that Nkomo will not be arrested. Comrade Mugabe made it clear that dissidents in Matabeleland are operating under the leadership of Nkomo and ZAPU.

Mugabe Notes 5 Areas of Concern to Government

MB290950 Harare THE HERALD in English 15 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] (ZIANA-TANJUG) The Prime Minister, Cde Mugabe, has spoken of five developments he would like to see as Zimbabwe moves towards consolidating its independence.

He told the Yugoslav news agency, TANJUG, this week: "What we would want to see done is really to increase the pace in transforming our system, the intensification of the socialist cause, the creation of co-operatives and the organisation of those already formed, more State participation in the private sector and the development of the worker's position in industry," he said.

Cde Mugabe said there was a need to transform the relations between the workers and management. A social security system for all the workers would be introduced and social services, education and health would be increased.

"The State will participate much more in the mining sector, manufacturing, and in those areas which we regard as crucial," he said. The government already took part in agricultural development through the Agricultural and Rural Development Authority.

Energy and power programmes were being pursued and talks were underway between the Government and Zambia on the development of the Kariba Hydro-electric Power Station, he said.

On the situation in South Africa and Namibia, Cde Mugabe said he did not think a Lancaster House-type constitution would be a solution in Namibia because of the history of the country. The South African-occupied territory's independence would only be achieved in the framework of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978.

ZANU-PF Central Committee Ends 2-Day Meeting

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[Text] The 2-day meeting of the ZANU-PF Central Committee ended in Harare last night with the election of a committee to look into the strategy for the forthcoming general election. The committee, which will be chaired by the deputy prime minister, Comrade Simon Muzenda, will consist of 14 members. These include all the nine party provincial chairmen and five members of the Politburo. Announcing this at a press briefing, the ZANU-PF secretary for publicity and information, Comrade Nathan Shamuyarira, said the Central Committee had also discusssed next year's program of action and reviewed progress made this year. Comrade Shamuyarira, who is also the minister of information, posts, and telecommunications, said effective changes to some of the government's policies had also been discusssed. He said some of the changes are expected to be announced by the prime minister in his address to the nation on New Years's eve.